

Four Winds

The Four Winds Renaissance Faire located outside Whitehouse attracts visitors.

[Story on page 8]

NCAA

March Madness has arrived. But is there room for improvement in the set-up?

[Story on page 5]



Ghost Tracker

Jacksonville locations rumored to be haunted by locals.

[Story on page 14]

The Apache Pow Wow

SINCE 1927

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WEB extras



MCT Photo

UNDRINKABLE

BAGHDAD — The stench of human waste is enough to tell that the drinking water is bad. Very few are willing to drink it from the tap. Raw sewage is mixed within the drinking water. Story at tjcnewspaper.com.



MCT Photo

NEW INVENTION

Invented in China several years ago, the "e-cig" not only "smokes" like a cigarette, it looks and feels like one also. But it's not a cigarette. It's a slender stainless-steel tube. Full story at tjcnewspaper.com.



MCT PHOTO

iPHONE MUSIC HIT

iPhone has been turned into a flute. Users blow into the microphone to start making music. Story at tjcnewspaper.com.

WEB extras TJCnewspaper.com

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Photo by Shela Burgess

CHAMBLEE ROSE GARDEN RIBBON CUTTING Above, Mayor Barbara Bass, Mark Chamblee, Dr. Steven George from the East Texas Cooperative Extension, and the Keep Tyler Beautiful Board Members participate in the ribbon cutting of the world's first entirely EarthKind™ botanical garden in the world.

SAVING THE ENVIRONMENT

TJC going green for spring

Eco-friendly changes benefit community

By Sidni Kirby
Online Editor

People all over the country are catching a fever — the "green fever," and it seems as if TJC has not been immune. In the past few years, talk about saving the environment and "going green" has heightened. TJC has recently taken up efforts to join in the cause.

"For TJC, 'going green' means to pursue knowledge and processes that can lead

ENVIRONMENT

Approximately 8,550 curb side recycling programs exist throughout the United States.

source: greenliving.loveto-know.com

to more environmentally friendly and ecologically responsible decisions," Bill King, TJC physical plant director said.

"Going Green" is an ob-

jective in TJC's 2008-2011 Strategic Plan. The objective establishes a series of policies that insure TJC is a safe and model "green" campus.

"If 'going green' will help our environment to be better for future generations, then that is what TJC needs to do," TJC student Ashley Livingston said.

Some subtle changes on campus have been made since the strategic plan has

— see GREEN page 13 —

Student success story

CLASSIFIED INFORMATION

Former slacker hopes to work for CIA

By Madison Payne
Managing editor

Martin Smith was a troubled student dating as far back as his elementary years. He was never dedicated to school and always found his amusements elsewhere. Martin was expelled three times during junior high and his troubles continued into high school.

In 2001, Martin was classified as a junior but only had eight high school credits, technically making him a freshman. He dabbled with selling drugs to students at school, eventually leading him to be expelled once again. Martin made the decision not to go back to school. From 2001-2003, he took his time off from school as an opportunity to kick back with friends and do drugs.

Tim Smith, Martin's father, always stood by his side and never lost hope in his son and always knew that he could do anything if he tried.

"Day in and day out, I stood by him and tried to do anything that I could do to motivate him," Mr. Smith said.

In 2001, Martin had a manic bipolar episode, but did not understand what he was experiencing.

"I thought that my episode was something that had stemmed from

some really bad acid that I took," Martin said.

In 2003, Martin had another bipolar episode and ended up beating his father, eventually provoking him to move to Tyler to live with his mother and receive help at behavioral clinics.

In 2004, Martin was hired as a janitor at UT-Tyler. He was eventually fired, but he remembers sweeping the floors of the Cowan Center and thinking about what a great honor it would be to get an award on that stage. That got him to start thinking about achieving his dreams.

Martin's father decided to make a deal with him and told him that he would buy him a new computer if he would get his GED.

Martin took his father up on his offer and completed his GED in April 2006.

A man by the name of George Kirkwood from the Literacy Council at TJC West Campus encouraged him to aim for a higher goal and continue on to college.

— see SLACKER page 9 —

Top Secret

Students fear lack of financial aid

Economy affects student funding

Satin Scott
Student Life Editor

Students at TJC may wonder what will become of financial aid due to the economy.

"I am afraid because you hear about the recession and the stock market going down," TJC student, Juan Orneles, said.

Melanie Davis who is also a TJC student, said that the only way she is able to go to college is through financial aid.

"It would be pretty devastating if I am not able to receive financial aid anymore. The only way you are going to make it in the world is if you have a college education," Davis said.

Devon Wiggins, Director of Financial Aid, said that there have been proposed changes by the Obama administration that have had an effect on student loans. There have been some lenders who have exited the FFEL (Federal Family Education Loan) program. As a result, students can no longer borrow from those lenders, and if they already borrowed funds from them, they will have to change lenders.

— see AID page 13 —

SMOKING IN A CRISIS

Economy is impacting smoking ban

Smoking increases internationally

By Chris Davies
The Daily Vidette

The implementation of new smoking bans nationwide has slowed as the worldwide economy mires in recession.

Twenty-four states, Washington D.C. and Puerto Rico have instituted indoor smoking bans, but since 2009, very few bans have been enacted.

Co-owner of Pub II in Normal, Illinois, Terry Stralow, explained that he has not seen a significant drop in patronage because of the smoking ban that went in to effect Jan. 1, 2007.

"Because we went to all non-smoking a year earlier than most people, were forced to get used to it and I don't think it has affected us," he said.

— see SMOKE page 9 —

Campaign against assault affects TJC

Students informed on violence prevention

Whitney Green
Staff Writer

There is someone in the U.S. sexually assaulted every 2 minutes. April is Sexual Assault Awareness Month around the country. Both dating and domestic violence is included as well. The slogan from the National Sexual Violence Resource Center (NSVRC) is "Respect Works!"

"We want to promote the theme, 'Campaign against Sexual Violence' to our students and our campus commu-

nity... A majority of our students are at very high risk of being victimized, partly because of age and the places they go. We want our students to know there is awareness on campus," Campus Safety Chief Randy Melton said.

Sexual Assault is one of the most unreported crimes and isn't always committed by strangers. Several Agencies in the Tyler area have teamed up in the prevention of sexual assault. SART (Sexual Assault Response Team) is at

FACTS

Nearly 6 out of 10 rape/sexual assaults occurred in victims' homes, home of a friend, relative or neighbor.

Sexual assault crimes in Tyler have decreased nearly 26 percent from 07-08.

Source: Tyler Police Department

— see CAMPAIGN page 9 —

Divorce rates falling but marriages still failing

Recently, it seemed like I had quite a few young friends who were a little too eager to tie the knot. As I sat in the back of the crowded church, the only thought running through my mind was, "after the divorce, which one of them will be keeping the toaster I bought for their wedding gift?"

It seems so senseless to get married knowing that half of all marriages fail.

However, statistics commonly reported about divorce are exaggerated. Rates are actually still falling from their highest peak in the 1980s.

The divorce rate in 2005 was only 3.6 percent per 1,000 people, the lowest rate since 1970. It is down from 4.2 percent per 1,000 people in 2000.

In recent years, divorce rates have been portrayed to have risen astronomically, making it seem as if marriage isn't a goal of new generations.

However, the number of divorces peaked at the highest rate in history at 5.3 percent per 1,000 people in 1981, almost three decades ago.

But before you put away the cynicism and Google engagement rings, look at the reason divorce rates have fallen. It's not because people are staying married; they simply aren't getting married. It is still entirely possible that new generations don't plan to wed.

There were approximately 2.23 million marriages in 2005, down from the 2.28 million the previous year, despite a total population increase of 2.9 million.

While people aren't getting married, they are still living together in a wedded environment. The number of unmarried couples cohabitating soared from 43,000 in 1960 to 5.4 million in 2005.

Some believe the reason for this change is a backlash of



KAMREN THOMPSON
Editor in Chief

children from broken families, refusing to follow in their parents' footsteps. They are simply "gun shy" about marriage.

The State of Our Unions 2005, a report issued by the National Marriage Project at Rutgers University, said that 63 percent of American children grow up with both biological parents -- the lowest figure in the Western world.

Many young couples are choosing to live together in a married environment but not legally tying the knot as a solution to the pressure of marriage and divorce. However, studies have found that cohabitation before marriage, or cohabitation with no intention of marriage, is very unhealthy for relationships.

One report found that only 12 percent of these relationships last more than 10 years. A Penn State study found that even a month of cohabitation decreases the quality of a relationship.

People who live together before getting married are also 50 percent more likely to get a divorce than couples that do not live together before marriage.

Also, living in the south increases your chance of getting a divorce. CNN reported that states in the "Bible Belt" have a divorce rate that is roughly 50 percent above the national average. These states include Alabama, Arkansas, Arizona, Florida, Georgia, Mississippi, North Carolina, New Mexico, Oklahoma, South Carolina and Texas.



CNN also reported that the higher southern divorce rates usually can be attributed to the fact that couples in the South enter their first marriages at a younger age, family incomes in the South are lower and educational attainment is lower.

Age is a contributor to divorce all over the nation. The younger the couple, the more likely their marriage will fail. Approximately 64 percent of divorced women are under the age of 24.

A study by the National Institute of Mental Health and UCLA's Laboratory of Neuro-Imaging stated that the point of intellectual maturity, the "age of reason," comes

at about age 25, and major decisions shouldn't be made before then.

The National Healthy Marriage Resource Center claims that postponing marriage until after the age of 25 can reduce the chance of divorce by 25 percent.

It seems that we can't stay together when we get married, and we can't stay together when we don't get married.

What does the future of relationships hold? This hesitant, uncommitted behavior that is being passed down through generations could lead society further and further away from marriage and monogamy all together.

Marriage is something

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editorial

Smith County could make drinking more accessible than smoking

In Texas, 40 percent of all driving fatalities are alcohol related. So here's an idea, let's force people who drink closer to their cars, and here's how you do it:

This May, some Smith County voters will be asked to vote on what some think is an important issue—the legalization of "beer and wine sales for off-premise consumption." In other words, parts of Tyler and the rest of the Justice of the Peace Precinct four would become partially "wet". While this may seem to be one of the many ways Tyler is expanding, an event on June 1, 2008 may prove otherwise.

In February 2008, the Tyler City Council unanimously voted that Tyler businesses would become "smoke-free." No big deal. If someone is having a craving for an afternoon smoke, they can just go outside. If only it were so easy. A person also has to move at least 20 feet away from any door-

DRINKING vs. SMOKING

Cigarette packs and beer bottles both have Surgeon General's warnings.

Over 400,000 people die each year from tobacco use.

Nearly 14,000 people died in an alcohol related accident in 2006.

Sources: cancer.org, cdc.gov

way, ventilation system, or window that can be opened. Suddenly, that five minute smoke break becomes a little more like 10.

While one vote led to a ban on smoking in bars and restaurants, another vote may lead to easier access to beer and wine in Tyler. Tyler is purposely restricting the rights of smokers in Tyler, while favoring those of drinkers.

The health effects of both smoking and drinking are potentially detrimental. Most have seen the Surgeon General's warning on cigarette packs. A similar warning is also

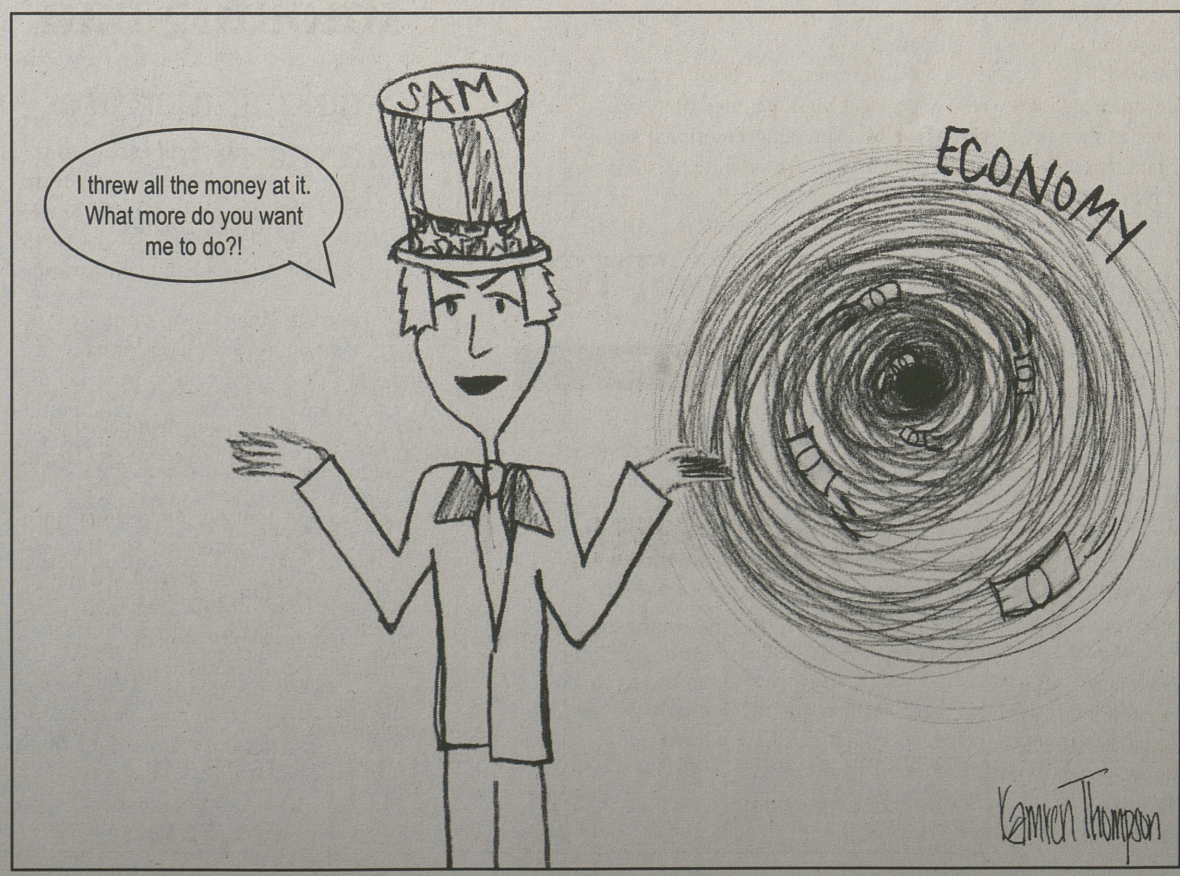
printed on beer bottle labels. Yet, the Smoking Task Force in Tyler used a study the Surgeon General did on second-hand smoke as part of their basis for recommending Tyler businesses become smoke-free.

Some people might say, "I don't want to smell smoke while I'm eating or out with friends at a bar." Well, some people may not want to share the road with the group of friends that leave the bar after a few rounds, either. While smokers are still permitted to smoke outside, they have to move at least 20 feet away from the entrance of the bar or restaurant. Basically, smokers can smoke outside, in their car, or at home, but not at restaurants, bars, or hotels. Drinkers can, if the law passes, drink at all of the above. Smoking and drinking are considered vices by some, so why is it fair to make one vice (smoking) harder, but make another vice (drinking) easier.

According to cancer.org, over 400,000 people die each year from tobacco use. The statistic seems shocking when compared to the near 14,000 people who died in an al-

cohol related accident in 2006, according to cdc.gov. However, cancer.org states that "because cigarette smoking and tobacco use are acquired behaviors—activities that people choose to do—smoking is the most preventable cause of premature death in our society." Smoking is a choice. Dying from smoking is a choice. But being killed in an alcohol-related accident is not a choice. In 2006, cdc.gov found that over 150 child passengers, age 14 or younger, were killed in an alcohol-related crash where their driver had a blood alcohol content of over .08, and 45 children, age 14 or younger, were killed as innocent pedestrians or bicyclists. Those children didn't choose to drive drunk, but they still paid the price for someone else's choice.

The fact that cigarette packs and beer bottles both have Surgeon General's warnings, and both drunk driving and second-hand smoke are both unhealthy and dangerous, should prove that the city can't ban one but embrace the other --either the city should accept or shun both.



HAVE SOME- THING TO SAY?

Send a letter to the editor at
tjcnews@tjc.edu

International enrollment increasing TJC, nation's foreign student population still on the rise

By Nahum Lopez
Staff Writer

Like many institutions across the country, the market for international students has increased at TJC.

The market for foreign exchange students has become highly competitive in recent years. The stronger development of higher education in other countries is forcing colleges and universities to compete for the interest of foreign students.

The three countries that send the most students abroad posted double-digit increases. India is up 13 percent. China is up 20 percent, and South Korea is up 11 percent.

The competition, however, has not affected America, where International students on campuses are at an all-time high, according to the Institute of International evaluation. The number of foreign students is up 7 percent, and new enrollment is up 10 percent.

"In today's competitive international environment, the increase in enrollment noted in this year's Open Doors data demonstrates again that the U.S. remains the premier destination for international students," said Goli Ameri, Assistant Secretary of State for Educational and Cultural Affairs.

The number of international students at TJC is increasing with the nation.

"We have 112 international students on campus with students visas and from over 60 countries," said Nidia Arrellano, coordinator of international admissions at TJC. "TJC will continue to keep the doors open," said Arrellano.

Foreign exchange students have a number of reasons for being attracted to TJC.

"Things are better organized, the college life is different, the school is set up like a business, with more professionalism in sports and other activities at the college level," sophomore Allen Thomson said. Thomson is from South Africa.

"I was referred to TJC by a college coach who suggested I get transfer credit to a higher education institution. I feel that life is really different here, and the only thing I would change would be the

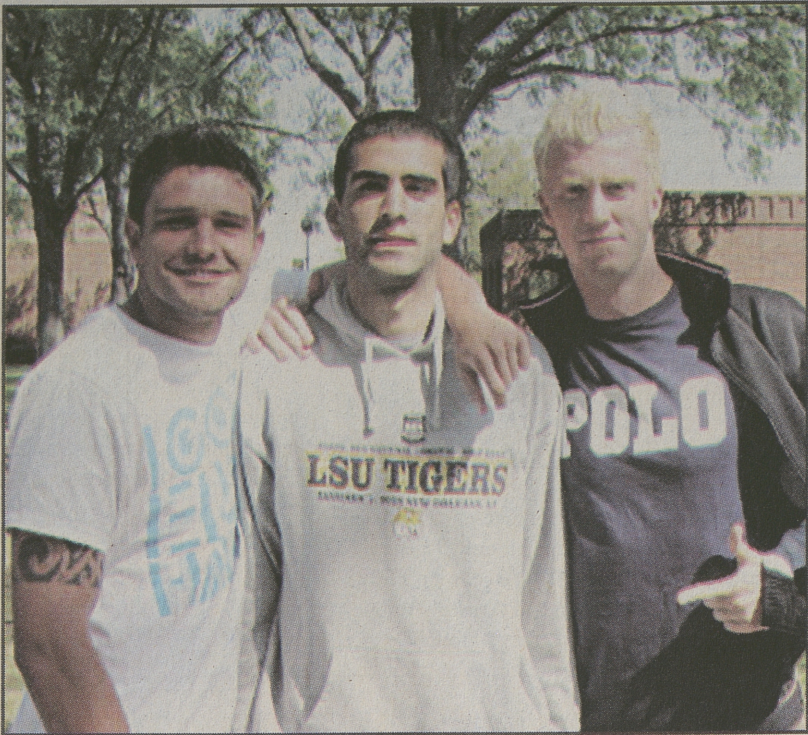


Photo by Nahum Lopez

COMING TO AMERICA International student-athletes shown from left are Roger DaCosta, Ben Paneccasio and Allen Thomson. All three men came to Tyler Junior College to play soccer.

closed mindedness of some Americans who forget that there is a world outside of Tyler," said Ben Peneccasio, 22-year-old exchange student from Australia.

Other countries recognize the benefits international students bring, and would like to take advantage of them. When students arrive in a country, they bring cultures, languages and traditions with them, and they also take some of their host country's customs when they leave.

"As a country, they need to recognize that other country's are implementing strategies for enhancing their attractiveness and accessibility for international students like statuses of Visas and other politics for foreign students and scholars," Lawrence H. Bell said during his testimony in front of U.S. House of Representatives.

International students help Americans gain a critical understanding of other cultures and languages such as Arabic, Korean and Farsi. They help to develop long

lasting relationships between the U.S. and other nations, bettering world diplomacy.

"Everyone would like to be ahead in the game furthering academic exchange — in both directions. International students diversify our campuses," said Allan E. Goodman, CEO of the Institute of International Education, during his testimony in front of U.S. House of Representatives.

Some examples of exchange students who studied in the U.S. are former Prime Minister Tony Blair, former UN Secretary General Kofi Annan, and Afghan President Hamid Karzai.

"Having leaders live and learn in the U.S. assist the long term relationship for foreign policy goals and is a strong diplomatic asset for the United States, a good investment that we can make to strengthen U.S. is higher education and research activities is to foster cross-border collaboration on shared global problems such as fighting disease, protecting the environment, and countering terrorism," Goodman said.

Networking sites could damage friendships

By Jessica Yadegaran
Contra Costa Times

I knew I had to delete her or suffer the consequences.

I'm talking about my Facebook profile, that page on the social networking site devoted to me and where 175 million other users around the world can "friend" me by sending a simple note. The female in question was an acquaintance of a friend. I barely know her, but she has a reputation as queen of gossip in the greater Los Angeles area.

I thought about it for another second then clicked "remove," and freed myself. Two days later, I was on the phone with the original friend and there was an awkward pause in our conversation. "So, Ashley is hurt that you don't want to be her friend," my friend told me. I wasn't sure how to respond.

So I spoke the truth: "Ashley and I barely know each other. Who cares?" Not

long ago, most devotees of social networking sites believed in numbers. Fill your page with goofy photos and pensive updates then amass as many friends as possible to prove your popularity. These virtual friend armies became the norm, and even though we never spoke or saw each other, somehow we felt validated by the three- and even four-digit tallies. Now our pages are oversaturated, however, and we're craving a little peace and privacy. As such, friend pruning and unfriending have taken over as the latest behaviors on social networking sites such as Facebook, LinkedIn and MySpace.

But rather than agonize over whom to remove — your boss? your girlfriend's mom? — many users are starting from scratch or scaling back on whom they friend or accept requests from in the first place. Discretion, it seems, has also surpassed the need for numbers, experts say.

LizaDawn Ramirez of Hayward, Calif., knew it was time to do some major

friend cleaning when she began censoring herself on her Facebook page. She had hit 143 friends, and didn't feel close to many. So, she deleted everyone and started over. First, she reached out and friended family. Then, close friends.

"It's awesome. It's so freeing," she says of the purge. "I know the people on my Facebook now and genuinely feel that they have my best intentions at heart. I don't have to censor myself anymore." She also got rid of her MySpace page and limits LinkedIn to a home for her resume. "I don't ever update my status there and just stay connected to colleagues," she says.

Today, Ramirez is happy with her 44 Facebook friends, and hasn't had to deny anyone. Most of the fat she cut was well-meaning but long-lost high school and college classmates or people she met at parties who reached out to her but whom Ramirez knew she would never hear from

— see NETWORKING page 4 —

Students struggle with unplanned pregnancies

By Nikki Bell
Advertising Director

While many sexually active students use contraception, many do not. It is not surprising that a lot of college students report either experiencing or being involved in unplanned pregnancy.

"I did not become pregnant as a result of casual sexual encounters. I became pregnant because I was in a relationship," Texas College Freshman Chasity Jordan said.

Whenever women are feeling ashamed and alone, or their partners no longer want to be with them, there are places they can go for help.

"When I became pregnant, I was scared to tell anyone besides my closest friend," TJC sophomore Jazzmen Smith said. "You just feel guilty, like you have shamed your whole family."

Shame is one of the reasons many women facing unplanned pregnancies shy away from help.

"The guilt makes it difficult for them to associate with peers and family, because frequently, they fear they will be judged negatively by their family," Suzanne Rice, counselor at West Rusk High School, said.

Communicating the fact that these women are pregnant is sometimes the hardest part. A lot of these students feel that people will look at them differently,

Being pregnant and unmarried has an affect on their whole life.

"Telling your partner is the hardest part. You never know what they might say or do," Texas College freshman Tamesha Wallace said. "If I could help anyone, I would tell you not to [have sex], but since women are having sex, use protection. I love my son, but if I had a second chance to do things differently I would."

For students who are unsure about their unplanned pregnancies and are unaware of their options, organizations like Father Heart Maternity Home seek to provide answers.

Located among 40 acres of East Texas woodland, Father Heart provides on-site schooling, BULS-1 Program (Biblical Understanding and Life Skills introduction), and childbirth education. For the baby, they offer newborn parenting classes and health care for infants up to 12 months old.

Once a student has a baby, life is totally different. There are things that a student must cut out. The extra activities such as hanging out with friends, going out to the movies or just having a quiet day alone are all out of the question.

"Life gets extremely hard after having a baby," TJC student Frandreka Walker said. "Your freedom is out the window. It takes you from irresponsibility to responsibility in a heart beat."

Student parents have to balance

their school work with having a child, but can find support from family and friends.

"Maintaining in school is hard," student Terri Martin said. "You have to be focused and motivated to finish school because of sleepless nights. And playing catch up with your homework is almost impossible."

"Families and friends of students, who experience an unplanned pregnancy can assist by expressing emotional support and being careful about the things they say," Rice said.

Despite being conceived within committed relationships these students saw their pregnancy as a growing process.

Among the many other facilities willing provide help and answers, Trinity Mother Frances Family Care Center offers services that include medical care, health education and counseling.

TMF FAMILY CARE

PHONE:
(903) 535-9041

HOURS:
Monday-Wednesday: 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Thursday: 7:30 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Friday: 8 a.m. - noon

NEWS IN BRIEF

UT-TYLER TO HOST A PATRIOT PREVIEW DAY

The University of Texas at Tyler will hold Patriot Preview Day for prospective students and their families on March 28 from 9 a.m. to noon.

On-site check-in begins at 8:30 a.m. at the UT-Tyler Herrington Patriot Center. Activities throughout the day include campus tours, open academic sessions and the university showcase.

STUDENT SENATE TO TRAVEL TO CONVENTION

The Tyler Junior College Student Senate will be attending the Texas Junior College Student Government Association state convention on April 2-5 in Austin.

The TJCSGA is made up of 72 colleges across the state of Texas. The member colleges are divided into six regional districts drawn at the county level. TJC student Travis Smith is the Region 3 President.

PHI THETA KAPPA REGIONAL CONVENTION

Over 20 Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society members participated in the Texas Regional Convention March 5 through March 8 in Waco.

Awards at this convention are based on live presentations, speeches and detailed essay packets prepared by charter officers. Phi Theta Kappa divides the 86 chapters in Texas into five districts so that chapters can work together geographically.

The advisor for Phi Theta Kappa was presented a Horizon Award for service student representative and will be honored by college presidents at the All-Texas Academic team reception on March 31 in Austin.

PIZZA DELIVERY DRIVER ROBBED AT GUNPOINT

On March 22 at 12:10 a.m. Tyler police were called to Domnio's Pizza at 710 W. Gentry Parkway about a Robbery. Officers learned that a pizza order was called in to be delivered to a non-existing address on W. Third Street.

The delivery driver failed to locate the address and returned to the store on Gentry Parkway. The store was re-contacted by cellular telephone and this time was given the address 1419 West Third St. — an actual existing address.

The delivery driver returned to West Third St. and prepared to deliver the pizza when he was approached in the front yard of 1419 West Third St. by three black males. Two were wearing ski masks and one was wearing a bandana on his face.

One of the suspects displayed a chrome handgun and demanded money. A small amount of cash was given to the suspects and they fled taking the pizza with them also.

There were no injuries during the crime and the suspects were last seen running on foot toward Old Noonday Road. All three of the suspects were black and in their early 20s. If you have any information on these suspects please call Tyler police at (903) 531-1000.

GANG FIGHT INVOLVES AGGRAVATED ASSAULT

On March 22 at 1:37 a.m., Tyler Police responded to a large fight near Douglas Elementary School located at 1525 Carlyle Ave. The police department received several calls about the fight, but arrived at with no evidence of a disturbance.

Two injured people were discovered a short distance away from where the fight had been reported. A Hispanic female had a head injury from being struck by a baseball bat and a Hispanic male had injuries related to being struck in the torso with the bat and also being assaulted with hands and feet.

The victims were identified as 24-year-old Maria Mojica of Tyler, and her 19-year-old brother Bravlio Mojica also of Tyler. Both victims told police they were attacked by gang members during a large gathering in front of the school on Carlyle Ave.

Maria Mojica was transported by ambulance to East Texas Medical Center where she was treated for her injury that was determined not to be life-threatening. Bravlio Mojica, whose injuries were minor, refused medical treatment.

Although at least one known gang member was identified as a suspect in the assault, the investigation is on-going. If you have any information about this crime, call (903) 531-1000.

College affordability threatens minority higher education

By Taylor Valentine
Advertising Director

More African Americans are attending college than ever, but the number of graduates remains low possibly due to the costs of attending.

"My family motivated me to attend college because neither parent graduated, and they wanted me to become successful," freshman Briyana Johnson said.

According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics in 2008, the unemployment rate for African Americans with college degrees was 3.8 percent compared to 9.3 percent for those with a high school degree. For black females, a college degree translated into wages 70 percent higher than those earned by high school graduates.

Michelle Frankenberger, direc-

“We must ensure that we provide access to African Americans and Hispanics of low-income families.”

— Dr. Austin Lane
VP of Student Affairs

tor of Institutional Research and Records Management, showed a statistic that at TJC during the 2007-2008 school year, that 272 African Americans graduated and 2,045 were actually enrolled.

According to the SallieMae program Champions for Higher Education, in 1971, 7 percent of African Americans between the ages of 25 and 29 held a bachelor's degree. By 2007, that number nearly tripled to 20 percent. In comparison, 36 percent of their white peers graduated from college in 2007.

"We must ensure that we pro-

vide access to African Americans and Hispanics of low-income families, especially," Dr. Austin Lane, VP of Student Affairs, said.

The percentage of African Americans attending college has grown throughout the years, but the rate of those who actually graduate is still low.

"If they (the student) don't adjust socially nor academically, they are at risk staying here," said Lane.

Compared to only 9 percent of whites and 15 percent of Hispanics, 28 percent of African American parents said they strongly agreed

with the statement "college is not affordable for my family," according to Sallie-Mae Gallup research.

African Americans have become more concerned about their education partly because it is harder to find financial aid that is affordable.

Dr. Lane said that TJC can easily accept the students to TJC but it's how the students are going to pay for classes that is the challenge.

One of the problems for low-income African Americans and Hispanics is affordability and how to pay for college.

"I pay for school either out of pocket and have a Pell grant worth only \$500 that I received from financial aid, and one student loan," said LaMarquis Ray, TJC sophomore.

Some African American students feel that it is harder to get financial aid due to their parents' income or other financial reasons that

may prevent them from qualifying.

Keyon Lewis, a TJC sophomore struggles to pay for college because he has to pay out of pocket and request student loans in order to cover his school fees.

"My mom is a single parent, and me and my sister both attend college, and we are still unable to receive benefits for financial aid. I think that people with money (wealthier families) still get financial aid, while people (middle class or low-income) without money, can't qualify," Lewis said.

So even though more students are coming to college, the challenge becomes how to afford to stay.

"Quality is first, but most of all affordability is very important as well," said Lane.

For more information on financial aid, contact the Financial Aid office at 903-510-2385.

Local businesses, employees give back locally, internationally

By Lea Rittenhouse
Staff Writer

Running late and still in need of that daily dose of caffeine? The Starbucks customer stops in for a cup of coffee not knowing she is contributing to their community and possibly other countries as well.

"We are a company that gives back. We recycle. We reuse a lot of products. We conserve a lot of energy," Elizabeth Martin, a Starbucks barista, said.

In 2007, Starbucks conserved over 110,000 trees and enough energy to power 9,000 homes for year.

Martin is a Red Cross Disaster Action Team member, a Tyler Junior College student, a mom and a Starbucks employee. She has worked for Starbucks for almost a year, and currently works at the location on Rice Road and Broadway Avenue.

Starbucks emphasizes community service with their employees.

"If I'm at work and I have a fire or disaster call, I know that there is someone who would

come in so I could go out there and help those people," Martin said.

Starbucks has several opportunities for customers to participate in their mission to give back.

For example, when one pound of coffee is purchased, \$1 is donated back to the country of origin. Their cups and coffee sleeves are made with 28 percent post consumer recycled content.

"You can come into our store and, while we are doing something good, through us you are doing something good," Martin said.

Starbucks is just one of the many businesses in Tyler that gives back.

Brookshire's Grocery Company contributes to the community in different ways. One of the ways Brookshires gives to Tyler is the Brookshire's World of Wildlife Museum and Country Store located on Old Jacksonville Highway.

The museum and park is free to the public and popular among families.

The staff at Brookshires also goes into the community and works alongside local groups

and organizations.

Brookshires community project for the last three months of 2008 was going out and helping with PATH's Coats for Kids program. The employees passed out coats and did whatever PATH needed them to do.

The company is also supportive of organizations like the East Texas Food Bank, Boys and Girls Club of East Texas, The East Texas Crisis Center and several others.

"We are very supportive of causes that feed the hungry," Sam Anderson, Brookshires customer and community relations director, said.

Café Tazza is a new business in Tyler located on Old Bullard Road that also believes community involvement is important. The biggest way Café Tazza gives back is through the arts.

On Thursday nights, artists can put their artwork on display free of charge.

"We don't charge commission on their artwork. It all goes to them," Jane Keller, owner of Café Tazza, said.

Café Tazza also contributes to the com-

munity by donating free coffee and other services to functions around Tyler.

Premier Fitness, located on Donnybrook Avenue in Tyler, is another business that is involved in community service.

Every year they put on a 5k fun run called the "Turkey Truck", a event facilitated by premier employees that volunteer their time, along with Boys and Girls Club volunteers. All of the proceeds go to the benefit of Boys and Girls Club. Cune Pena, the owner of Premier Fitness, is on the board of Boys and Girls Club.

Fiore across the street from Premier Fitness on Donnybrook Avenue is another local business in Tyler that gives back to the community.

The restaurant's donations are normally in the form of meals, but they also participate in giving to school activities, and Junior League functions.

"Contributing to the community is very beneficial. It's what makes a community good," Jimmy Lynn the owner of several local restaurants, said.

NETWORKING

continued from page 3

again. "I felt like Pokemon because people were trying to collect me," she says. Her rule now? "I'm definitely not going to accept anybody if I don't think we can carry on a legitimate relationship outside of Facebook," she says.

Yolanda Higareda of Union City, Calif., has all of five people on her Facebook page, and they're all relatives. She surfs chat rooms but doesn't belong to other social networking sites. The family uses Facebook to post photographs of the children. Higareda did friend one person outside of her family, and eventually deleted her following an offline falling out. "In this world, you just surround yourself with people who make you happy," she says. "You can get drama online and off. Who needs it?" Before the Web turned networking into a computer-human relationship, socializing had to do with sharing place-appropriate information, says Dana Herrera, an assistant professor of anthropology at Saint Mary's College who researches virtual worlds such as Second Life. That could explain the added drama.

'WE'RE SOCIAL CREATURES'

"When we would socialize at work or school, we would talk about work or school information," Herrera says. "We're social creatures. We enjoy feeling part of a group. This is how we developed as humans. One thousand years ago, being taken out of the group was a social commentary on your success."

Even though the sites don't alert the person who's been dumped — the sudden lack of access does — the situation can still be awkward. Even for Herrera. "I can't begin to understand the social ramifications of unfriending a student," she says. So, at the beginning of each semester, the professor encourages her students to friend her but suggests they consider their click very carefully.

"I remind them that if they can see me, I can see them," she says. The result? Out of 70 students, one will

SOCIAL SOLUTIONS

Looking to downsize your social army?

Follow the tips provided by Greg Atwan, co-author of "The Facebook Book" (Abrams Image, \$12.95), a guide fro Facebook users.

end up friending her. A fellow professor at St. Mary's friends students only after they graduate, Herrera says. Another colleague, Herrera's co-researcher, adjunct economics professor Andres Margitay-Becht, poses this question: "If unfriending is so cruel or unusual or rude, then does it mean that in 30 years we'll still be friends with these students?"

Good point. Your online profile is your creation. So, if you have to remove someone -- be it a nosy ex or a handful of people you never interact with -- be firm. "The first step is admitting the problem. After that, take off 10 percent (of your friends)," says Greg Atwan, the New York-based co-author of "The Facebook Book" (Abrams Image, \$12.95), a satirical handbook for maximizing your Facebook page. "Cut anybody that you're sick of. If you're sick of hearing about so-and-so's dog grooming, he's not going to notice when you drop the ax."

In the book, Atwan suggests "trimming the friend hedge" twice a year. In his circle of twenty-somethings, 500 friends is the sweet spot. For folks older than 30, the largest growing segment of Facebook users, it's often less. If you're concerned about hurting someone's feelings, don't be. "There's a difference between the passive aggressive unfriending of someone you know well and you think will notice, and the judicious pruning of the hedge," Atwan says.

A while back, Atwan noticed that a circle of people associated with an ex-girlfriend had ritually unfriended him. He didn't make a big deal about it. "This is how friendship is defined now," he says. "It used to be by Aristotle and now it's by my Facebook page." As for

the random friend from junior high, there is an ignore button, he adds.

TOO MUCH INFORMATION

Experts, such as Margitay-Becht, believe that the social

downsizing comes as consumers realize the pitfalls of sharing personal details with acquaintances and strangers. And as these sites continue adding applications that encourage users to share even more juicy information -- from home videos to politically inclined invitations -- all those so-called friends may know more about you than some of your distant cousins.

"One of the major points that's happening is a desire to

reduce the information clutter," he says. "These online personalities have a life of their own and there are large privacy issues here. Everyone's burned themselves, and when that happens, the knee-jerk reaction is to cut off as many people as possible."

It's sobering, to say the least. At least most social networking sites have privacy settings that can limit the amount of personal information people see about you. You can also

block people and control who can search for you. But they're not for everybody.

"Unless you're a bona fide celebrity or in the CIA, it doesn't seem necessary to use the privacy settings," Atwan says. "The entire premise of Facebook is that if two people have a lot in common and don't know each other, they should be able to come together through Facebook. That to me is a sounder basis for friendship than junior high."

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How to make the NCAA Tournament that much better

By Dave Darling
The Orlando Sentinel

There are some things in this great world of ours that seem downright perfect.

But as we all know, no one is without fault and everything can always stand improvement.

Take supermodel Adriana Lima, for example.

Rumor has it that her husband, Memphis Grizzlies guard Marco Jaric, complains that his better half constantly leaves lights on around the house, parks the SUV too close to the wall in the garage and cuts his tuna sandwiches in squares instead of triangles.

OK, so perhaps Jaric should worry more about his jump shot.

The point is, just like Ms. Lima's portfolio, March Madness seems to be about the closest thing to perfect as you can find in the sports world.

The NCAA Tournament and the conference tourneys leading up to Selection Sunday make the month the most exciting on the American sports calendar.

We'd never propose to overhaul the one-and-done bracket system that America falls in love with each spring, but we do have some suggestions that might improve the experience — none of which involves Mrs. Jaric wearing a glass slipper.

Expand the tournament. I'm not proposing going to 128 teams. Lord knows there already are enough scrub-conference schools in this thing. But the NCAA could add play-in games and expand the field to 72.

Take the 16 lowest-ranked bids and add two play-in games for each bracket's 15-16 seeds. Play all eight games on Tuesday.

Let the computers do the picking. BCS bashers will hate this idea, but it would make things much more objective. The computers rank teams 1-72.

Clean up the brackets. Ditch the "regional" bracket tags and instead call them Brackets 1-4. Each bracket, tied to true geographic regions, gets three host sites.

Then take the top 56 teams and flow them into brackets, keeping schools as close to home as possible (likewise for the eight teams that win their play-in games).

Dump the automatic bids. Yeah, it's great that college basketball has a true playoff. And we all love a Cinderella story. But quality schools can get left out when a weak team gets hot and wins its conference tournament. Schools should have at least a .500 record to get a bid.

Show more opening-round games. With 16 games being played on the first Thursday and Friday of the tournament it's impossible to show every contest from start to finish.

But CBS and the NCAA could do better.



There's no reason to wait until 12:20 p.m. to start the first game and then take a dinner break from 5-7.

At some points during the afternoon and evening there are as many as five games being played simultaneously. Start the first game at 9 a.m. and then on the hour right through midnight. On Sweet 16 weekend, start the games at 10 a.m. and begin games every two hours.

Less bubble talk. Increasing the field might help eliminate some of the endless, obnoxious yapping by all the forecasters

and bracketologists.

Or, maybe not. . . . So instead, maybe President Obama can get involved in this college-sports debate, too, and propose legislation forcing ESPN and talk-radio hosts to limit their bracket talk to no more than five minutes an hour. Or, maybe he could just eliminate talk radio altogether. . . .

No more domes. Play the Final Four in a basketball arena. Period. The atmosphere inside a dome meant to seat 70,000 people just isn't conducive to college basketball. Those places are great for rock concerts, WrestleMania and monster-truck shows. But let's play basketball in a 19,000-seat hall.

While we're at it, allow corporate sponsors to display their logos on the courts. This would allow the NCAA and CBS to make up for revenue lost from selling fewer tickets.

Remote patrol

Did you see where CBS announcer Gus Johnson had to be removed from a Beale Street eatery in Memphis by police early Saturday after sources said he became belligerent and complained loudly about the service and food? Hmmm. Doesn't sound like the calm, mellow Gus we all know.

And did you see where President Obama filled out his bracket on ESPN on Wednesday? He picked North Carolina to win it all.

A free trip to Disney World to the first person who can tell me whom President Bush picked to win it all when The Worldwide Leader had the former prez reveal his picks in 2001.

Question for The Big Lead: Was it really fair to match Erin Andrews up against Scott Van Pelt in your Culture Tournament with that picture of Miss Andrews being so prominently displayed?

Finally, the Atlanta Journal-Constitution reports that Fox, which still has one year left on its BCS contract, is interested in selling those rights to ESPN, which is set to take over the games in 2011.

(Distributed by MCT)

Early exit for Men's Basketball

By Aaron Boone
Sports Editor

Tyler Junior College Men's Basketball Team was defeated in the third round of the Region XIV basketball tournament by Paris Junior College 95-80 at UT-Tyler's Herrington Patriot Center on March 8.

A semi-final loss to a team that the Apaches had beaten earlier in the season, in the Apaches hometown, was not what head coach Mike Marquis had in mind.

However, the road to the semi-final game was successful.

At the end of the regular season, the men's 23-5 overall record and their 13-5 conference record was good enough for a tie for first atop Region XIV's north zone, which earned TJC a first round bye.

The men's first action came on March 7 when they matched up against Blinn College in the quarterfinals. Coach Marquis felt he had his team ready to play.

"We won five in a row to end the regular season with three of those wins coming on the road," Marquis said. "I'm very happy with our team's play at the end of the season."

The Apaches proved their coach right, overcoming Blinn's hot-shooting start to win the game 88-84, improving their record to 24-5 and advancing to Sunday night's semi-final game.

Sunday's game plan against Paris Junior College was simple.

"We have to rebound well," Marquis said. "If we get beat on the glass, we are going to have a tough time beating anybody."

With that in mind, TJC and Paris tipped off a little after 8 p.m. Sunday night at UT-Tyler. It would be the last time the Apaches would do so this season.

Despite sophomore guard Reggie Nelson's game high 23 points, the Apaches did not have enough gas in the tank to defeat sharp shooting Paris Junior College.

It was a back-and-forth contest in the first half, ending in Paris claiming the half-

time lead with the score at 39-33. It was TJC's on the ball defense that kept the Dragons from running away with the game in its early stages. The men's team went only three of nine from three point land and shot a paltry 49 percent from the charity stripe in the opening half.

However the second half, without a doubt, belonged to the Paris Dragons who outscored TJC by nine points in route to their victory.

Leading by example, 5-foot-9 point guard Raymond Sims had a team high 16 points on the way to the win. The regions assist leader, he dished out 6.2 assists per game this season, had the Apaches on their heels all night, effectively orchestrating the Dragons offensive and defensive with extreme precision. Scoring help came from Shannon Shorter, who poured in 15 points, and Nafis Richardson, who added another 13 points, which effectively buried the Apaches.

TJC did make a run at the game late in the second half. With his team down 15 points and 5:46 left to play in the second half, coach Marquis had his team start pressuring the ball with an effective full-court press.

It worked.

The Dragons looked confused and Tyler took advantage of their opportunity cutting the 15-point lead in half in just two minutes.

But on their next possession, the Apaches missed a crucial jumper from three-point land with Paris grabbing the defensive board and getting fouled on the other end of the court. The Dragons sunk both free throw attempts, which gave them a 10-point lead and they never looked back.

"This tournament will be won by the team who is the most mentally prepared," Marquis said before the game. Unfortunately that was not the TJC Apaches.

The team's collective effort from the three-point line Sunday night was right at 33 percent, and while their free throw shooting percentage was about 20 points higher, 53 percent shooting from the line did not earn the Apaches a trip to the Region XIV championship game.

U.S. ousted by Japan in WBC America will not be 09 'world' champs

By Al Balderas
The Orange County Register

LOS ANGELES — Japan scored five runs in the fourth inning to reach the finals of the World Baseball Classic with a 9-4 victory over the United States on a cold and windy Sunday night at Dodger Stadium.

Japan will appear in its second consecutive WBC final game, playing Korea on Monday night. It will be the fifth time the teams will have faced each other since the tournament started on March 5. They split the previous four games, with Japan holding a 21-9 edge in cumulative runs.

"They were fundamentally sound," Jimmy Rollins of the U.S. said of Japan. "They took advantage of mistakes. They didn't worry about trying to drive the ball out of the park. When you put the ball in play, you can find some holes. They definitely did that."

The United States took a 1-0 lead Sunday on the second pitch of the game when Brian Roberts hit a home run to center field.

Japan tied the score in the second on a sacrifice fly by Kenji Johjima, only to watch Team USA go back on top in the third. Philadelphia Phillies shortstop Jimmy Rollins singled with two outs, stole second and scored on David Wright's double off the right-center field wall for a 2-1 U.S. lead.

Boston Red Sox pitcher Daisuke Matsuzaka started for Japan, and although he looked shaky at times, he gave his team 42/3 solid innings.

The U.S. had runners on base in four of the first five innings and left 10 runners on base in the game.

"Dice-K was Dice-K," Rollins said of Matsuzaka. "A lot of pitches and a way to squeak out a win."

Houston Astros and Team USA starting pitcher Roy Oswalt said before Friday's workout, that he could throw 100 pitches if

necessary.

For the first three innings it looked like he was up to the task. His night ended after throwing 66 in 32/3 innings.

Atsunori Inaba and Michihiro Ogasawara singled to start the bottom of the fourth and Kosuke Fukudome followed with a hard grounder off Roberts' glove at second base. Inaba scored on the error and Ogasawara scrambled to third.

Johjima tied the score at two with his second sacrifice fly of the game and Akinori Iwamura hit a two-run triple to give Japan a 4-2 lead.

Japan pulled away with an RBI single by Munenori Kawasaki. Kawasaki scored on a two-out double by

Hiroyuki Nakajima, giving Japan a 6-2 advantage.

Oswalt was replaced by John Grabow, who got the final out of the inning.

"I had hoped to have him (Grabow) ready by the eighth hitter (Iwamura) but it was awful cold out there," Team USA manager Davey Johnson said.

"I didn't think it was going to take him so long. It was my fault. It took him longer in the cool weather to get loose."

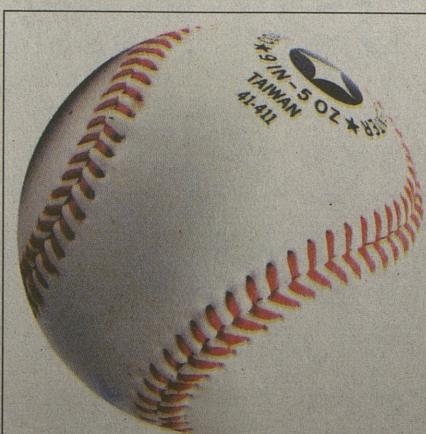
The U.S. crept closer by tagging Takahiro Mahara for two runs in the eighth inning. Mark DeRosa doubled to score Ryan Braun and Brian McCann, cutting Japan's lead to 6-4.

DeRosa wound up at third base when left fielder Norichika Aoki overran the ball in the left-field corner. But Evan Longoria struck out and Roberts grounded to the pitcher for the final out.

Japan responded with three runs in the bottom of the eighth inning, one of which was charged to Angels reliever Scot Shields.

Two of the three runs for Japan in the eighth inning were unearned because of a throwing error by Derek Jeter.

(Distributed by MCT)



sportsCALENDAR

Men's Golf: March 19-21
Illinois Central Tournament

Women's Tennis: March 26
TJC vs. UA Little Rock @ 10 a.m.

Men's Baseball: March 30
TJC vs. Texarkana @ 2 p.m. Mike Carter Field

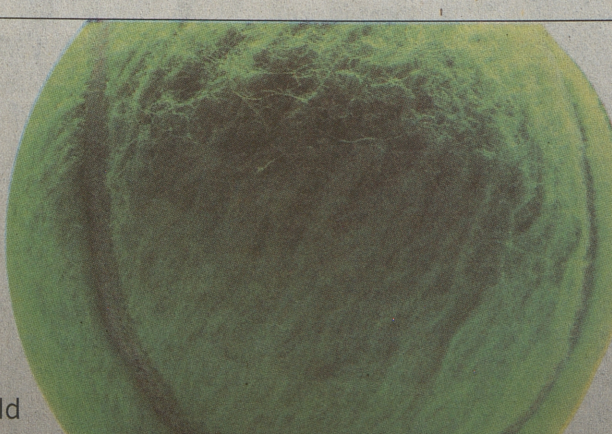




Photo by Griffin Blackburn

WOMEN'S GOLF Elizabeth Rosebury lines up a putt on the 17th at Eagles Bluff.

By Griffin Blackburn
Asst. Sports editor

She carries a gold tool used for marking balls and fixing divots. On the back of the tool is inscribed "I beat Keith Lain" and a date from 1970. The tool was a gift from her grandfather to a friend that had bested him during a

During her senior year

"I would enjoy being a golf pro or coaching professional golfers, but as far as going pro, I don't feel I am ready for that," Rosebury said.

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[arts&entertainment]

Discovery Science Place provides children with creative outlet

By Sarah Malik
A&E Editor

The Discovery Science Place is a non-profit, hands-on learning environment with the purpose is to open young minds to science, technology, math and culture.

Located at 308 N. Broadway Ave., the Discovery Science Place opened to the public in October 1993. It was started by a few of the Junior League of Tyler participants who wanted children to learn about science and culture.

"It's providing a good learning environment for kids and parents," Michael Shanklin, executive director of the Discovery Science Place, said. "It's fun to go, safe to go and it's educational. They are having fun and learning, as well."

The museum has 15,000 square feet of space and includes three galleries. The Discovery Landing exhibit gives kids a chance to have a hands-on experience to see what could go on in a newsroom, the Magic School Bus and much more. The Joyce Buford Exhibit Hall: Hometown, USA is a child-size community that features a bank, an emergency room, restaurants and much more. This

"The more we engage them fully, they will retain it more. Creativity is such an important part."

— Angela Watson
Science and arts integration coordinator

exhibit gives kids a sense of what a community is all about. Another exhibit they have is the Color: The Science & Art of Seeing Light, which explores the science of weather. The museum works with TISD with an after school science club for fourth- and fifth-graders.

The passing rate for the science club members on the science portion of TAKS is 84 percent and non-science members are 74 percent. The passing rate for TAKS overall is 93 percent for science club members.

"Seeing these scores- we have a huge impact on these kids who are part of the science club," Shanklin said.

Creativity in science and math is important to the Discovery Science Place and helping children learn. The museum partnered with TISD and the Hudnall Planetarium to let the kids come up with artwork on what reminded them of Mars. The plan-

etarium took the images and merged them into one of their shows.

"The more we engage them fully, they will retain it more. Creativity is such an important part," Angela Watson, science and arts integration coordinator for Discovery Science Place, said. "I am very passionate about what I do."

The Discovery Science Place sees about 300 volunteers a year; it also has summer camp programs for children and internships for students. The museum was honored with national recognition as one of the top 25 science centers in the nation by Parents Magazine.

"I'm extremely proud of that. We are giving them a quality education," Shanklin said.

The museum is open Monday through Saturday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Sunday from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. and is \$6 per person. There is no charge for children under two.



Photo by Sarah Malik

HOMETOWN FEELING A girl plays in the Joyce Buford Exhibit Hall: Hometown, USA. This exhibit is a child-size community that gives kids a chance to have a hands-on experience and sense of what a community is.

Going back in time to the Four Winds Renaissance Faire

By Krysten Hanger
Staff writer

Welcome to a place filled with knights, pirates and musketeers. Where friends and family can go back in time and see what it was like to walk, talk and eat just like in the Renaissance.

The idea of a Renaissance Faire in the East Texas area began in 1994, as Four Winds Renaissance Faire opened its gates for the first time with only three stages and a small tent village on 15 acres at the Vizcaya Ranch near Tyler. It has grown much larger, adding permanent vendor booths, eight staging areas, a wall with towers and gates enclosing the faire grounds, a large concession building, fully equipped handicap-accessible restrooms, two dining pavilions, and a nearby campground with RV hookups and shower-house/restroom facilities.

The Four Winds Renaissance Faire, owned and operated by Dustin and Kristen Stevens, is now in its 15th season of turning back the hands of time for the community. With so much to do and see such as the many sword fights, re-enactments and jousting tournaments, it keeps tourists and locals coming back for more.

Mr. and Mrs. Stevens and a group of committed individuals have worked together to realize his dream of a world of castles and



GOING BACK Left, Thomas Bedlam dressed up as a pirate magician. Right, The Four Winds Renaissance Faire gives visitors a chance to experience going back in time by a re-enactment of a battle in the renaissance period. Visitors can also get the chance to see knights, pirates and musketeers.



Photos by Krysten Hanger

knights, all in a picturesque 17th century setting, Stephens said. This hidden world is located outside of Whitehouse.

One unique aspect about this faire is that they allow the visitors to be completely part of everything that is going on. It is a hands-on experience.

"I liked feeling like I was a part

of the story," Sarah Goodwin said. "My favorite part was probably the sword fighting and also because I was chosen the lady of the fight."

One of the more interactive booths at the faire is the Blacksmiths booth. Shaddowhawk blades owned by Charles Adams have been in the business of making custom knives and battle weapons for 26 years.

"To the best of our knowledge, we are the only interactive blacksmith shop in the country," Adams' wife, Sarah said.

When people start to gather around the Blacksmith booth, that is when the demonstration begins. Many times during the day, they will choose someone standing in the crowd to make their own hair stick,

which is a weapon designed for girls to wear in their hair. It not only looks nice, but it can also be used in case of an attack.

"Four winds was really fun, I thoroughly enjoyed it, I would definitely go back especially with a date or a friend but its also something a

— see FAIRE page 8 —

Student recitals give music majors opportunity to show talent

By Sarah Hall
Staff writer

What started out as a young boy eager to help out his church worship team, turned into a life long passion for music. Kieth Boynton began learning how to play the bass guitar at age 12; he has been playing ever since and now majors in music at Tyler Junior College.

"It's made me a better person, it has given me something with which to claim my personal individuality, the ability, performance, and the ability to become more than just a [music] player, but an expression of the things I wish I could say," Boynton said.

Music majors are required to participate in student recitals each semester in order to graduate. These recitals give students the opportunity to put to practical use what they have learned while still enrolled and before entering the career of their major.

"Much can be learned in a practice room, but until they perform for a live audience, the student doesn't have a real sense of their mastery of a particular piece," Kerry Baham, director of Fine and Performing Arts, said.

Students spend hours upon hours

practicing, learning and fine-tuning their musical piece to perform on stage and in front of a live audience.

"It is kind of like a speech class, except you don't talk, but you still present something," David Ramirez, a second year music major, said.

Music majors study their music as much as or even more than a non-major student studies for any other class.

Students that participate in the recitals are able to perform in front of their peers. This gives them a positive environment to practice, and could also be a good way to gain feedback from the audience.

"For a music major there is no harder time to perform than in front of other musicians," Boynton said. "You're completely exposed to the real quality of musician you are. You're forced to see your weaknesses, and see where you need to improve."

Baham would like to see a larger audience at each recital for the students who spend hours preparing.

"There is nothing more gratifying to a performer than to see a full audience in attendance," Baham said.

Instructors are a major part of the student recitals, helping each student prepare more fully for their per-

UPCOMING SHOWS

The next student recitals are going to be March 27, April 3, 17 and 24. They will be held in the Jean Browne Theater.

formance. Not only do they teach and encourage their students, they also help with the process of picking the pieces to play in the recitals.

"Any of the music teachers at TJC care a whole lot about their students. It's like they realize that they can help each student become a better person," Boynton said.

This can be nerve-racking for the teacher as well as the student, because the recitals put the professor's students and the product of their job on display.

The student recitals are held each semester on Friday's at 1 p.m. in the Jean Browne Theater. Each recital is around 30-45 minutes long and about five students perform each time. The next student recitals will be held March 27, April 3, 17, and 24. For more information on the student recitals, contact Kerry Baham at (903) 510-2483 or Jeanie Oxler at (903) 510-2202.

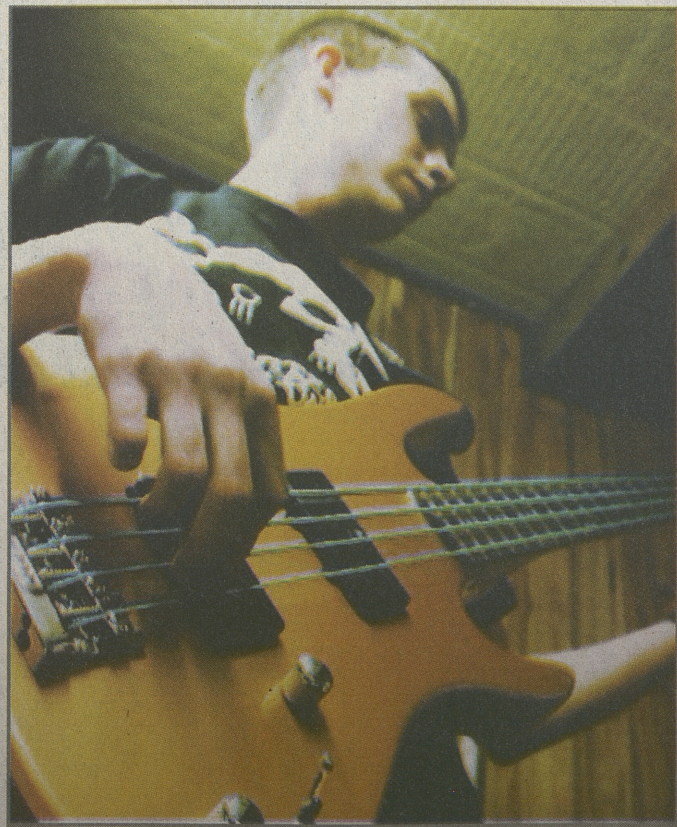


Photo by Sarah Hall

STUDENT RECITALS Kieth Boynton practices the bass guitar. A TJC music major, Boynton learned to play the guitar at age 12 and has been playing ever since.

Blogger declares best and worst attractions of SXSW

By Jill Menze
UWIRE BLOGGER

Phew! What a week! I'm running on a five-day hangover of too much loud music, booze, sun and everything else imaginable, and I gotta say, it was one of the best weeks ever. Here are my top highlights from the week:

BEST SHOW: Jane's Addiction @ Playboy's Rock the Rabbit. What business did Jane's Addiction have playing SXSW, who cares, cause this show killed. I get that this award is supposed to go to some up-and-comer waiting to be discovered, but screw it, Farrell and Navarro deserve it.

BEST SHOWCASE: Tie: SPIN Magazine @ Stubb's BBQ/ Village Voice @ La Zona Rosa. I'm sure there were a few showcases that could compete for this award line-up-wise, but my time spent at Stubb's was enjoyable, despite how crowded it became for Echo & the Bunnymen. Stubb's is a top-notch outdoor venue. Village Voice is up there, too, for the free Mexican food, as well as the lineup, which I unfortunately only caught half of (saw:

Crystal Antlers and Cursive; missed: Gomez and M. Ward).

BEST VENUE: French Legation Museum. This outdoor space was absolutely lovely — big, green lawn, trees, WAVVES beating a pinata. I didn't have time to catch much live there, but the time I spent just hanging out felt perfect. Someone also shared with me the history of what the French Legation Museum actually is.

BEST MEAL: Brisket sandwich at some off-the-beaten-path BBQ joint near our house. I have no idea what the name of this place was, and I have never in my life had such unreasonably slow service, but oh well, it was worth it.

Overall Best-Of @ SXSW '09: I'd love to say that this was hanging with my best buds from New York, spending quality time with good friends from out of town and meeting tons of new people, or any one of the many nutty situations I found myself in, but in all honesty, it was having my wallet returned. Thank you, Austin Police Department, for all your help and understanding. And now, the worst ...

Worst Show: As I think back

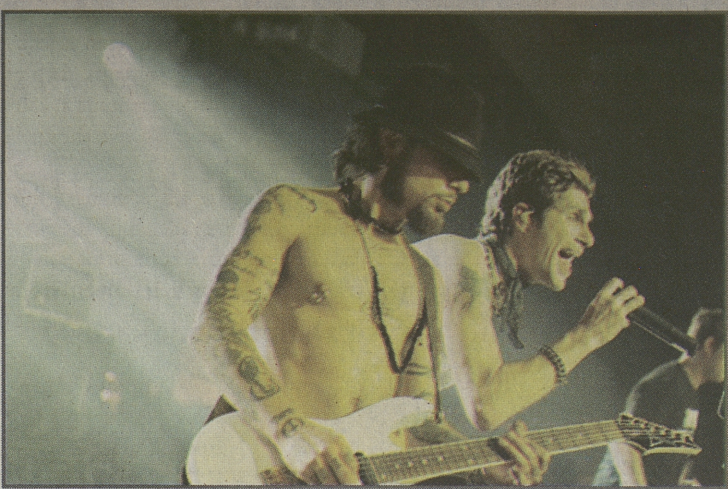


Photo by James Trevenen/Playboy

JANE'S ADDICTION Dave Navarro and Perry Farrell perform in their band Jane's Addiction during SXSW.

on all the shows I caught this week, none stick out to me as particularly "bad," but there was one singer/songwriter wailing off-key from a rooftop downtown that immediately made me wish he would shut up. And the fact that it's STILL vivid in my memory must say something.

Worst Venue: iheartcomix/Jelly NYC showcase: This event was a ways from downtown (in a strip

mall? I think?), in what had to be the worst setup at the fest. After hopping in a cab just to get out there, the line stretched for blocks, and after running into some friends on their way out, they said it was 20 times worse inside and infested with teenagers. So without even bothering to check it out myself, I'm declaring this the worst of the week.

Worst Meal: Rachael Ray.

Faire

continued from page 7

whole family would enjoy," Goodwin said.

The Faire is fun for the whole family with a little bit of something for everyone including rides, magicians, the jousting team and games of skill. Some of the time period food offered includes turkey legs, spicy sausage, stuffed Irish potatoes, fresh fruit, cheesecake and other delectable treats and soft drinks.

Four Winds is open every Saturday and Sunday 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. During the weeks of Feb. 28 to April 19 with each weekend hosting a new theme. The most upcoming theme is the Masque Ball and April Fools Fest, which includes a masque ball and feast March 29 from 9 p.m. to midnight and an April Fools on March 30 in honor of jesters and makers of mirth.

Four Winds Faire is located 11 miles south of Tyler on Highway 110 S. between Whitehouse and Troup. Tickets are \$12 at the gate for adults and \$6 for children 12 and under. Free parking is available. For more information please visit their website at www.fourwindsfaire.com

Reese Witherspoon gets animated in 'Monsters Vs. Aliens'

By Roger Moore
The Orlando Sentinel

Some movies you do for the cash. Some you do for Oscar glory.

And some, if you're Reese Witherspoon, you do for the kids.

She's done many a hit, from Legally Blonde to last winter's "Four Christmases." She's been a critic's choice since "Election." And she has her Oscar, for "Walk the Line."

So her reasons for doing "Monsters vs. Aliens": her daughter Ava and son Deacon, "a movie they could wear the funny 3D glasses to see."

It's an animated 3D comedy about Earth-bound monsters released from government custody to battle invading aliens. Even a movie that has Mom's character transforming from an unassuming bride into Ginormica, a gigantic "monster" woman has its teachable moments.

"Sometimes we walk away from movies and I quiz them about them. 'What did YOU think that movie was about?' I did that after

'Monsters vs. Aliens,' and my little girl goes, 'I think it's about never letting anybody underestimate you!'

"Wow. Gold star for her. She's the one who should be doing my interviews on this one!"

"Then my son said, 'Make sure octopus aliens don't eat our planet!'"

Witherspoon giggles. Boys will be boys, after all. But she saw role-model potential in Susan, the "little woman" who grows into someone more substantial in the film, which opens Friday.

"Susan has a great storyline," Witherspoon says. "I knew if we did this right that she could be very inspiring to a lot of kids. She's somebody who has a not very high opinion of herself at the very beginning, not wanting anything much for herself out of life. But she takes this journey, becomes gigantic, and starts to see her inner resources as her own greatest asset."

I love playing somebody who is in a struggle with her own identity. Kids connect with that, I think.

"It's not her size that matters. It's the

strength she finds in her personality that's what's cool about Susan."

Another plus to making the movie was that she would get to re-team with Paul Rudd, her co-star in "Overnight Delivery," back in 1998. Rudd plays Susan's self-absorbed, career-obsessed weatherman fiancé in "Monsters." Until, that is, she becomes Ginormica. They recorded their scenes together for the animators.

"Just being in the booth with him made the scenes funnier," Witherspoon says. "Nobody can deliver a line like him. He's not afraid of being an idiot. Paul's a guy who was born missing that humility gene."

Rudd recalls being impressed with Ms. W. long before she was a household name.

"I remember watching 'Man in the Moon' and thinking, 'That girl is one of the most naturally gifted kids I have ever seen,'" Rudd says of Witherspoon's first film, made when she was just 14 (she turned 33 Sunday). "There's not many careers that would track from that to 'Fear' to Tracy Flick in 'Election' to 'Legally Blonde' to 'Walk the Line.' She is amazing."

That mutual admiration society will be honored when they team up again for a new romantic comedy that Witherspoon will star in. "How Do You Know" is the working title of a film that has Witherspoon learning a "secret" new skill - "It's not another musical instrument" is all she'll say about that - and will also star Owen Wilson.

And then there's the movie after that, another one for the kids. "The Bear and the Bow" will be animated; Reese will play a royal scion who would rather become a great archer than a princess. Billy Connolly also stars, because this Pixar tale is set in ancient Scotland.

"I get offered a lot of animated movies. I don't know why. Is my voice funny? But something about Susan and Ginormica reached me. And right after that, Pixar came along with another great character. A girl from royalty who would rather be a great archer? And she has a Scottish accent? Who could turn that down? You always go for the great character to play, even if she's animated."

(Distributed by MCT)

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The Apache Pow Wow is looking for photographers. Email tjcnews@tjc.edu for more information.

Phi Theta Kappa recruiting members to join international organization

Krysten Hangar
Staff Writer

Phi Theta Kappa is sending out 1,000 invitations to students through their TJC e-mail accounts to join their International Organization.

Students who have a 3.5 cumulative GPA and have at least 12 hours credit are eligible to join.

This time, the invitations will be sent through e-mail only. Students

who receive this e-mail are invited to a formal dinner at 7 p.m. on April 1 in the Apache Rooms, where students will be inducted into Phi Theta Kappa.

"This year we are trying to go green and not use as much paper as we did in the past since last year there was a large amount of invitations returned because of incorrect addresses," Delk said.

Gigi Delk, one of the Alpha

Omicron Chapter advisors, is concerned that many students do not use their TJC mail accounts meaning they will never receive the invitations.

Attendance of the dinner is not required for membership. The invitation contains more information on how to buy induction dinner tickets for \$10.

Students who become members pay a one-time membership fee of

\$80, which covers international, regional, and local fees as part of the online application process.

Students need to pay this fee before the end of the spring semester. Both male and female students are eligible to join.

As a member of the organization, academic excellence will be recognized with the Golden Key Membership Pin, a membership certificate and identification card will

be mailed from the international office, notation of membership will be on diplomas, and transcripts, and members will have the privilege of wearing the Phi Theta Kappa honors stole at graduation.

Also, many four-year universities offer scholarships to Phi Theta Kappa members.

The TJC Phi Theta Kappa is in the top 15 chapters in Texas and top 100 internationally.

CAMPAIGN

continued from page 1

the East Texas Crisis Center.

"It is a multidisciplinary team," said Campus Safety Officer Peggy Scott.

The team is in addition to law enforcement and has members from Child Protective Services, the District Attorney's office, local school districts and nursing staff from both East Texas Medical Center and Trinity Mother Frances Hospitals. SANE (Sexual Assault Nurse Examiners) are nurses who volunteer and are specially trained in proper collection of valuable evidence for prosecution in court cases. Also, the nurses help with the emotional needs of the assault victim.

"It's something that's out there that's why we and law enforcement and these agencies are trying to educate and prevent [women] from being a victim of a crime," said Chief Melton.

The TJC Jeanne Clery Awareness and Security Report reads that:

"If an assault occurs off-campus, call the local [police] as soon as possible. If the assault occurs on campus, contact Campus Safety as soon as possible. If an assault occurs, don't change clothes or bathe. All physical evidence, including seminal fluids, hair, blood types, and scrapings of flesh from the victim's nails may be used in court. After reporting a sexual assault, a victim has the option for, and may request assistance in, changing academic or employment situations. A student victim may request assistance from Campus Safety, the Student Discipline Committee, and Residential Life. If the victim is a faculty or staff member, assistance may be obtained from Campus Safety and the Director, Human Resources, and the appropriate supervisor. Accommodations will be made only if so requested by the victim, and only if such changes are reasonably available. Counseling and referral information for survivors of sexual assault is available on campus through the Counseling Center and off-campus through the East Texas Crisis Center."

A local gym will be holding a Rape Prevention Seminar for Sexual Assault Awareness Month. The seminar will cover rape statistics

SEMINAR

The seminar will be held from 10:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. on April 18 at KH Fitness, 117 Shelley Drive.

The cost of the seminar is \$25 per person.

Students who provide I.D at the time of the seminar will receive a 10 percent discount.

For more information, visit www.EastTxKravMaga.com.

and what to do in case of an attack. Ranging from non-aggressive verbal, aggressive verbal, non-aggressive physical, aggressive physical, different combative and defense mechanisms in real-life scenarios.

It is based on the self-defense system, Krav Maga. People of all ages and sizes can participate in this event.

"It's important, everybody should know how to defend themselves and being the fact the way the economy is and there is more domestic violence going on now than in a good economy, it needs to be addressed. People need to understand that fighting back works and that it is worth fighting for your life instead of laying back and being a victim," said Nathan Lundstrom, instructor of East Texas Krav Maga.

"It's simple and effective," Lundstrom said.

The seminar will be held at KH Fitness located on 117 Shelley Drive on April 18, from 10:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. The cost of the seminar is \$25 per person. Students who provide I.D at the time of the seminar will receive a 10 percent discount. For more information, visit www.EastTxKravMaga.com.

If anyone has any questions on crime prevention or personal safety awareness, contact Campus Safety at 903-510-2222.

SMOKE

continued from page 1

Pub II installed a beer garden outside for those who still wish to have a cigarette while they drink, which Tralow believes helps their business.

"A lot of people use our beer garden to smoke, even in the winter when it's not as pleasant," he said. "I still see people outside other places standing outside the buildings and smoking, so I don't think that the ban has really affected Normal businesses."

Other areas of the country have not been as lucky as Normal, however. Five of 11 casinos in Atlantic City, N.J., informed the state that they would be forced to close should the state pass a smoking ban, forcing the state to postpone a smoking ban for the city.

In Colorado, lawmakers are reconsidering some of the restrictions they placed upon bars, restaurants and casinos to help troubled businesses. Colorado's gambling industry saw a drop of about \$100 million, or 12 percent, after they enacted a smoking ban.

The ban for the state of Illinois went into effect the same day as Colorado. Since that time gambling revenue has dropped by \$415 million,

or 21 percent, according to an Associated Press article.

Virginia is the only state to have passed a ban this year on Feb. 6, however their new ban has provisions to allow smoking in certain areas. Private clubs are exempt and restaurants that provide a separate room for smokers are as well.

Other states that are considering bans have looked into including similar allowances for businesses. Indiana, Missouri and Kansas legislatures are all currently considering bans on smoking inside public buildings.

Though some businesses claim that the smoking ban would be crippling, a state health report in Kansas estimates that the state could save \$20 million in the first year of a smoking ban. Likewise, freshman information systems technology major Mike King does not see the ban as a bad thing.

"The only thing that's changed [since the ban] is that I don't go to some restaurants anymore," he said. "I went there for the convenience of being able to smoke, but the food wasn't that good so I don't go anymore."

SLACKER

continued from page 1

In November 2006, Martin decided to enroll at Tyler Junior College.

"I totally bombed the math part of the Accuplacer. I was placed in remedial math 0301," Martin said.

Martin went into the math course and decided he was going to make it work for him.

"I really tried to drop my reservations about math and once I did, I made a 100 on the first math exam," Martin said.

Every test that followed that first test was passed back with a grade of 100 percent on the top.

"Once he stepped foot on TJC campus, his life turned completely around," Mr. Smith said.

Martin made an "A" in all of his math courses all the way up to his Calculus 3 class and has held a 4.0 GPA.

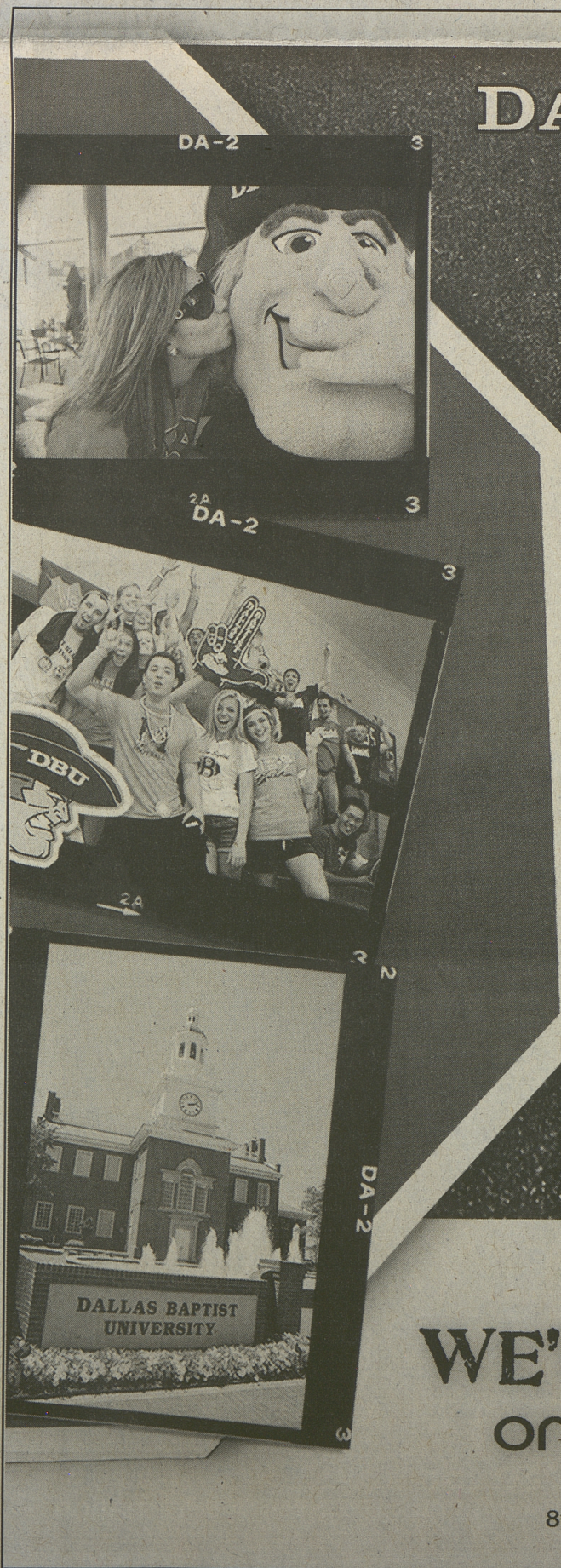
According to Martin, one of the main reasons for his success is his perfect attendance. He believes that if you are there every day, you will have a better chance of being successful.

"I have stood by him for 24 years, and he is just so unbelievable to me. I have always been proud of him and now the entire family is just so proud of him," Mr. Smith said.

Martin's ultimate goal is to graduate from UT-Tyler with a 4.0 GPA and go on to Texas Tech to receive his Masters and Ph.D.

"I want to become a full professor to teach number theory and also do consultant work for the government, I think that would be fantastic. That is my dream," Martin said. "There will come a time when there is hope," Martin said. "I can only put in what I can put in. It just so happens that I have been successful."

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Former TJC EMT student saves 16-month-old's life

Ashley Summers
Photo editor

On the morning of Feb. 26, Stacy Thompson was screaming and running with her 16-month-old daughter lying motionless in her arms, desperately seeking help. She was not necessarily hoping to find an EMT to help her, but fortunately, there was one nearby.

Brandon Porter, former TJC EMT student, was passing by the scene, slammed on his breaks, made a U-turn and ran to help Thompson and her baby, Kennedy Grace.

Kennedy had an apparent seizure while strapped in her car seat. As Thompson looked in her rearview mirror, she noticed her daughter had stopped breathing and quickly pulled to the side of South Donnybrook Avenue to try to get help.

Porter jumped out of his truck, told the frantic mother he was an EMT and Thompson handed him her daughter. Porter then rubbed Kennedy's chest and she began breathing again.

To everyone standing by, including Thompson, Porter became the hero of the moment, but to Porter, he was just doing his job. The off-duty EMT helped Thomp-



son by himself just as he would on duty with other EMS partners with him.

"The big thing was to calm Stacy down so she could answer all the questions. I can't stand seeing moms upset, but it ran pretty calmly," Porter said.



Courtesy Photos

HOMEOWN HERO Left, Brandon Porter is seen wearing his EMT uniform. Above, a fire truck is parked at the Elmo Volunteer Fire Department where Porter's dad is the chief.

Saving lives isn't unusual for Porter who works with sick and injured people every day.

He is now employed with ETMC and teaches the skills portion of the EMT class at TJC to help those who want to save lives just as he does on a daily basis.

"I don't feel that I saved a life. I was just doing my job... It's what I do everyday. But the reaction I got was incredible," Porter said about the media attention.

As an EMT, Porter has had to learn to put his emotions aside. Porter has worked for the Elmo

VFD since he was 16 and graduated from Wills Point High School in 2006.

When only in high school as a volunteer firefighter, Porter assisted a bus wreck when four children and the bus driver died. Counseling was an option afterwards, but Porter refused it.

"I've learned to set the emotional side separate so I can focus on what I do," he said.

Porter's dad works at the Coppell Fire Department (CFD) and is fire chief at Elmo Volunteer Fire Department (EVFD). Almost everyone at the CFD and EVFD know about his son's achievements.

Dave Timmons, instructor and department chair of Emergency Medical Services Professions, heard about his former student and said, "He did exactly what he was taught."

Porter crammed all the skills that were practiced in class multiple times.

When off-duty, Porter tries to relax and sleep as much as he can to be able to sit in an ambulance for 12 hours the next day. Fortunately, Porter had to run errands that day and was able to help Thompson and her daughter.

Expanding the hispanic culture Club serves campus, students by teaching traditions, customs

By Teresa Ramirez
Staff Writer

Stopping the rate of Hispanic high school dropouts, encouraging Hispanics to pursue a higher education, and proving people wrong are all goals of the Hispanic Student Organization (HSO) at Tyler Junior College.

The HSO at TJC was founded in the fall of 2006, and although it started out with as little as three members and a sponsor, it has grown to 76 members and counting.

"This year we worked together, and on our first meeting we had 75 people and all of them signed up," Andrea Reyes, president of HSO, said. "So it has grown a lot... and we have worked so hard to make it a lot bigger."

The purpose of HSO is to promote and expand higher education to Hispanic students. They also want to encourage high school and middle school students to not only get their high school diploma, but to also go to college. In the process, they also want to prove discouraging people wrong.

"[We] try to promote a positive image of the Hispanic community, pretty much to erase the whole cliché of 'Oh yeah, you're Mexican, [therefore] you're from a gang,' or, you know, 'You must not go to school,' and all of that stuff," Reyes said.

Members of HSO get involved in several community projects.

"We're trying to get the Hispanic community more involved in everything that goes around in the school," Ignacio Alva, public relations officer of HSO and a Business Administration major at TJC, said. "Because [there are] a lot of Hispanics that just come to school and leave, and they don't know anything about what's going on."

HSO members participate in on and off-campus TJC events and activities. They participated in Habitat for Humanity, which is a non-profit organization that builds houses for low-income families, and Student Latina Day, which "was a conference for 8th grade girls to encourage them to go to college," Reyes said.

"Because sometimes at that age you don't know college. You don't think about that, and that's the age that they drop out of school and get pregnant, or you know, they're just thinking about their quinceañera (a Hispanic tradition for girls who turn 15 years old)," Reyes said.

The Breaking Barriers in Education Dinner, a progressive dinner designed to educate Hispanic students and parents about the educational opportunities offered in Tyler, is a big event that the HSO is deeply involved in every year.

Día de los Muertos, Cinco de Mayo, International Day, and the Mexican Bake Sale are also events and activities that the HSO is involved with to help teach people more about their culture.

"This year we're [also] going to do Dream Big '09; Estudiando Por Un Sueño,



Photo by Teresa Ramirez

CLUB CONQUERS CULTURE Above, pictured are (top left) HSO president Andrea Reyes, Marco Mayo, Vice President Ezequiel Tirado, Jose Elizordo, Eder Salas, Israel de la Torre, Ignacio Alva, (bottom left) Marithe Reyes and Fernanda Reyes. Below, people are seen at an HSO event.



is the name we put in Spanish," Reyes said. "It's going to focus on juniors in high school, girls and boys, because we feel that in that time, they are also very at risk [to drop out of high school]."

Hispanic students, however, are not the only members of HSO. Non-Hispanic students, including international students, also join.

"They just like to come here because they, I guess, they like us or, you know, they want to get along and they actually learn a lot," Reyes said.

HSO meetings are held at 3 p.m. on Wednesdays in the Board Room in the White Administration building.

"HSO is not just for Hispanic students,

CAMPUS EVENTS

The Hispanic Student Organization is involved in events like Día de los Muertos, Cinco de Mayo, International Day and the Mexican Bake Sale to help teach about their culture.

it's open to all," David Gonzalez, one of the primary sponsors of HSO, said. "Anybody who wants to learn about our culture[or] learn about the language, they're more than welcome to join in anytime."

For more information, contact HSO sponsors Nidia Arellano by e-mail at nare@tjcedu or David Gonzalez by e-mail at dgon@tjc.edu.

Foundation hosts Jam Fest to entertain

By Brittney Rhinesmith
Staff writer

Getting involved with campus activities can be fun and a great way to make new friends. The Wesley Foundation Jam Fest is one of those activities that is entertaining and a great place to hang out with new and old friends.

Bradley Stenberg is a student at Tyler Junior College majoring in public speaking and is also an active participant in the Wesley Foundation. He is the creator of the Wesley Foundation Jam Fest that is held the last Saturday of every month.

SCHEDULE

The Jam Fest is held the last Saturday of every month from 8 p.m. to 11 p.m. at the Wesley Foundation Center.

There are no admission fees, and people can sign up once they get there.

There will be free coffee served.

The Jam Fest is a place where people in the community whether young, old, student or not, can show off their talents. The Jam Fest is open to everybody. All are welcome to sing, dance, act, play an instrument or sing karaoke.

Stenberg got the idea from the Venue, a talent show the theatre department hosts a few times a semester, but he decided that they were not doing it enough and he wanted to add to it the option of karaoke, ping-pong, computers and TV for people to enjoy.

The Jam Fest started in December 2008, which Stenberg said that at least 30 people showed up. The last Jam Fest of the semester will be the last Saturday in April.

"I love helping to serve God as well as this wonderful community here," Stenberg said. Stenberg has a heart for service, having served in the United States Air Force from 1999 to 2003.

Stenberg goes to school, works on campus, is on the school senate, part of the Wesley Foundation and is an active member at the Fairwood United Methodist Church in Tyler. He wants to become a preacher and will first start off leading worship at his church.

"He's a strong community supporter," Nguyen said about Stenberg.

The Wesley Foundation is not all fun and games; they also do things such as highway clean up. They teamed up with the Student Activity Center on campus to help them advertise and get more students involved in the Wesley Foundation and the Jam Fest.

Residents frustrated with dorms

By Tommie Matteucci
Staff Writer

Living on-campus in college is one of the highlights many students look forward to.

To some, it's the ability to live independently from parents. To others, it's the chance to learn responsibility. However, some students are having second thoughts about staying another semester. Students like Morgan Trodger were not thrilled once they went over the rules and regulations of Residential Life and Housing at TJC.

"You come to college to kind of get away from the rules," said Trodger, a freshmen staying at the Ornelas Hall. "I feel like there are more rules here than back home."

One rule students find annoying is the "quiet hours," which act as a curfew for students. At exactly 10 p.m. is when the halls enter quiet hours; at that point there should be no noise. During final exams, quiet hours are in effect for 24 hours.

If students make a noise, it will be considered a violation. Three noise violations will send a student to meet with Angela Nunez, Director of Residential Life and face the risk of being removed from his or her residence hall. This curfew, many students believe, removes the independence from the college experience.

"The hours are there to maintain a consistency amongst halls," Nunez said. "During these hours, we normally find students going to bed, doing homework, studying, or just hanging

DETAILS

For more detailed descriptions of all the rules to live on campus, students can visit <http://www2.tjc.edu/housing/pdf/ResidenceLifeHandbook.pdf>.

out watching TV. Most of the time students only have to be warned once and this is more at the beginning of the semester when a student is first learning about living in a community."

Nunez advises the students to address the issue with the Residence Hall Association, which holds meetings every other week in Louise H. and Joseph Z. Ornelas Residential Complex.

"If students would like certain rules changed, we have Residence Hall Association," Nunez said. "This is the voice of the residents. Every resident on campus is an automatic member. Students who would like to change certain rules go to the Residence Hall Association meetings held every other week in Ornelas and talk to the group, then they would come up with a presentation and rationale, present to RHA executive board, then if they pass it, it is then passed on to me to look at and decide."

The Housing Department will also have a survey during its "Intent to Return" process, asking students about their individual experiences at the halls.

For more detailed descriptions of all the rules to live on campus, students can visit <http://www2.tjc.edu/housing/pdf/ResidenceLifeHandbook.pdf>.

FEST

continued from page 11

Peter Groce, who is a student at TJC and a member of the Wesley Foundation, also is involved with the Jam Fest and said that he loves going to the Jam Fest because it is a fun place to hang out with his friends. Groce is part of the leadership at Wesley along side Stenberg.

"He's a pretty good singer," Groce said of his friend Stenberg.

The Wesley Foundation is a United Methodist-based campus ministry serving Tyler Junior College and the University of Texas at Tyler. Their mission is to cultivate deeper personal Christian faith, to build authentic Christian community and to guide the discernment and development of life callings and service among students.

Anyone is welcome at the Wesley Foundation. Their office is on Baxter Street next to the yellow bookstore. The Jam Fest is held the last Saturday of every month from 8 p.m. to 11 p.m. at the Wesley Foundation Center. There is no admission fee and free coffee will also be offered. Those who are interested in performing can sign up that night once they get there.

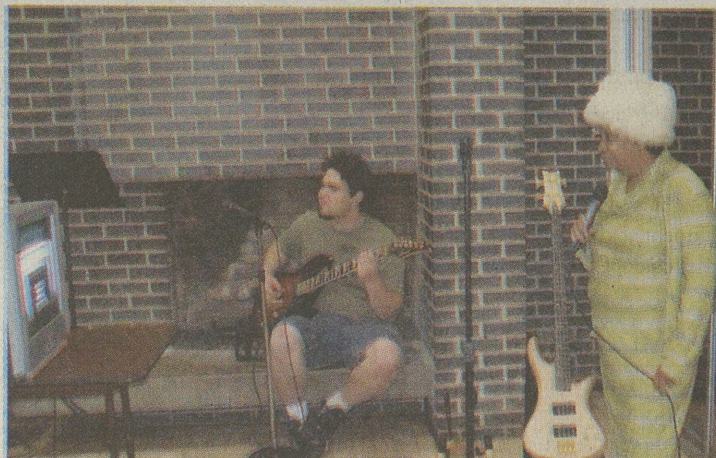


Photo by Teresa Ramirez

WESLEY JAM Top Photo: Mattie Hazelwood, Kimberly Reeves, Christy Parks and Jaime Sams enjoy karaoke while (bottom photo) Peter Groce and Karlene Akra enjoy plucking strings on the guitar.

Adults leaving the work force to extend skills through education

By Courtney Hodgkins
Staff writer

As the economy weakens and more than 1.2 million jobs were lost in 2008, many adults are returning back to school to further their education and training.

"The Adult Services was started around 1984 and was intended to help returning adults," Vickie Geisel said.

TJC offers a free service to help returning adult students. Support services and Adult Student Services, are available to help adults return to

school after an absence, along with single parents and displaced homemakers. This free service also helps with childcare, transportation and books.

As well as offering trained employees to help with decision-making, they also hold adult student workshops throughout the year. The next workshops will be April 21, May 28, and June 16. The workshops are 3 and-a-half hour information and orientation sessions for returning adult students age 21 or older and single parents of any age.

Bryan Baker, instructor/depart-

ment chair of Industrial Trades, said the Air conditioning and Welding program at TJC has seen many adults return to school to learn new skills to open up new job opportunities.

TJC has had a number of students return to school over the past five years. This past semester, the air conditioning and welding department saw about three returning students. In the past couple of semesters, they have seen as many as 20 returning students.

As businesses cut back on jobs, the demand for people working with air conditioning and welding remains

in high. Places such as Wal-Mart, Brookshires and other stores with food products are not going to cut refrigeration. These businesses are still continuing to use maintenance workers on their air conditioning to be able to sell food products.

"Welders make and repair a lot of equipment, which is a very high skilled job," Baker said.

As students return, they usually come and complete the number of hours for a certificate rather than a degree. The program offers two different certificates in welding and air conditioning, as well as degrees in

both.

Tim Bennett, a returning student in the welding program at TJC, said he "enjoys the hands-on experience as well as the instructors".

The welding and air conditioning classes are given on the west campus and are not available during the summer.

Anyone interested in the Adult Services is encouraged to get registration information by contacting the TJC Support Services office at 903-510-2395 or visit <http://www2.tjc.edu/adultservices> for more information.

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[variety]

GREEN

continued from page 1

been put into action.

"In the past few months, we have implemented many green projects," King said. "We have new boilers, which reduce natural gas, installation of new windows at the Physical Plant, Campus Services and Campus Safety, which save energy and use of low VOC paints in buildings, among other things."

TJCs chapter of Phi Theta Kappa is taking part in "Operation Green" which is in partnership with Keep America Beautiful to help improve community and campus beautification. "Operation Green" is a nation-wide project through Phi Theta Kappa, and the chapter at TJC has chosen to be active in the program.

"As members of Keep Tyler Beautiful, the Alpha Omicron chapter has initiated a project with Adopt-A-Highway," Sara Scarborough, TJC student and Phi Theta Kappa vice president of service, said. "Establishing our commitment to TJC and the community, we were able to adopt the area of Fifth Street extending

from Beckham to the Loop."

Other student organizations have gotten involved in "going green" by adopting highways and putting out recycling bins on campus.

According to research that was done by the Student Senate, the cost of recycling paper would end up costing the school \$10,000 to \$20,000 each year for pickup, delivery and storage container fees along with other environmental cost. Because of strict guidelines from Tyler Recycling, no colored paper, newspaper or shredded paper can be put into a recycling bin, restricting the ability to fully recycle on campus.

"With joint efforts from other on-campus organizations, we were able to find a recycling business that didn't charge for the service and actually paid us for collecting recyclable items," Scarborough said.

The Physical Plant and student organizations plan to continue making efforts to make TJC campus more economically friendly.

AID

continued from page 1

"This happened in late 2007, 2008" Wiggins said.

The lenders who are no longer giving student loans to TJC students are the following: Southside Bank, EFSI, Franklin Bank, Citibank and Chase according to Wiggins.

Citibank and Chase decided not to fund most two-year colleges, TJC being one of those colleges. The rest of the lenders decided to completely exit the FFEL Program.

All federal student loans are disbursed through the FFEL Program and the Federal Direct Student Loan (FDSL) Program. The FFEL provides subsidies and assurance to private lenders while the FDSL program grants funds directly from the government.

Under the proposed changes, all consolidated loans would come directly from and be paid for by the U.S. Treasury and sent to students through the Department of Education.

Because of these changes the FFEL Program will no longer exist Wiggins said.

Wiggins said that the Pell Grant "seems to be in good shape" since it increased from \$4,731 to \$5,350 per year. She hasn't seen reductions in the allocation of other grants.

In 2008, 2009 the Government approved a

\$2,000 increase of the maximum annual financial aid a student may receive for dependent and independent students.

Wiggins said that the financial aid department keeps their eyes on the proposals and bills just in case they would need to adjust to any changes. However the main focus remains on the bills that have already been made into law.

"The economy has serious effects on the student loan industry, but loans will still be available to students. It is just a matter of where they will be funded," Wiggins said.

In the 2008, 2009 award year, 3,225 TJC students received Pell Grant and 3,038 students received student loans.

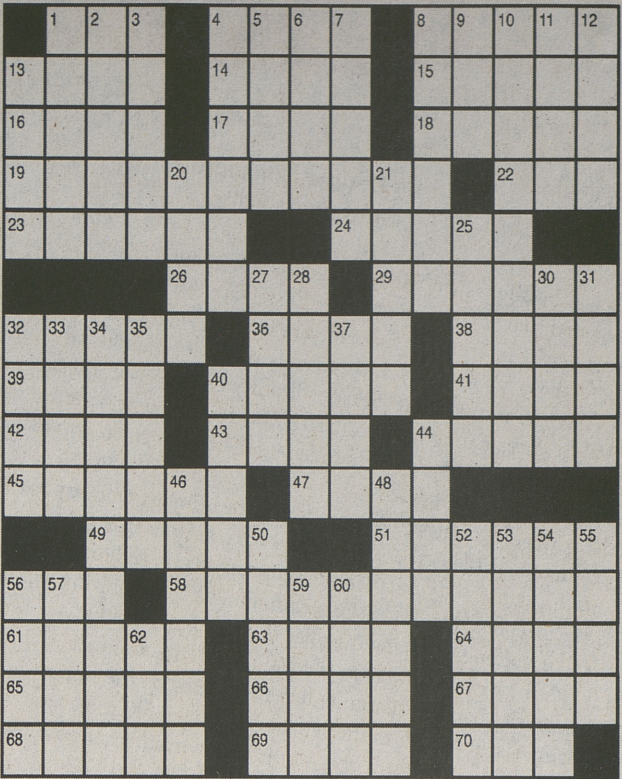
There are numerous banks and student loan lenders that are available to students. TJC provides a list of recommended lenders at www.tjc.edu in the Financial Aid section, in order to give students a starting point.

Wiggins said telling students and their parents to choose any lender they want to borrow can be very overwhelming because there are so many. If students need more information concerning student loans, they can talk to the Financial Aid department located in White Administration building.

Crossword

ACROSS
1 Top
4 Crooner
8 "___ porridge hot..."
13 Theater section
14 Concept
15 Inserted
16 Elvis' middle name
17 Appear
18 Cosmetic item
19 One who gives stunt flying exhibitions
22 Chaney or Chaney Jr.
23 Cain, for one
24 End prematurely
26 Money
29 Rest
32 Russian workers' group
36 Conceited
38 Spoken
39 Precious
40 Tie the knot
41 Pianist Peter
42 Actress Swenson
43 Intestinal parts
44 Head topper
45 Brain ___
47 Giants guard
49 Embankment
51 Swear
56 "Alice" spin-off
58 Enemies
61 Like school paper
63 Correct
64 30 over 12 = two ___ half
65 Ms. Dickinson
66 Mediterranean feeder
67 Squint
68 Had one's picture taken
69 Prophet
70 Turkmen, once: abbr.

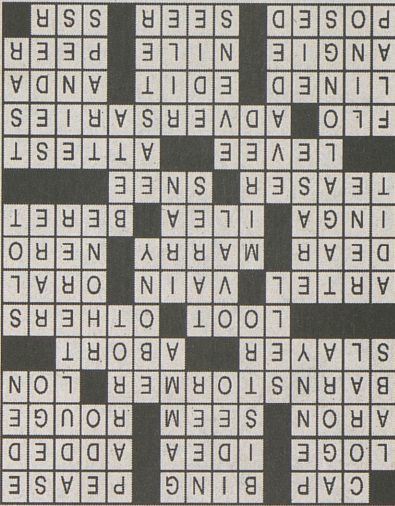
DOWN
1 ___ Sea
2 Socrates' forum
3 Small amount
4 Nightclub
5 Prefix for logical
6 At no time, to a poet
7 Fraternity letter
8 Imitator
9 Nigerian people
10 Unfaithful one
11 Dieter's lunch
12 First home
13 Chemistry classes, often
20 Trade for cash
21 Heavy wood
25 River in France
27 Skating rink
28 Biblical weeds
30 Scarce
31 ___ machine
32 Miner's passage
33 France's Coty
34 Kid brothers, often
35 Wipe out
37 Tabriz's location
40 Stuck in mud
44 Second letter
46 Sidestepped
48 4/12/09
50 Makes level



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3/24/09

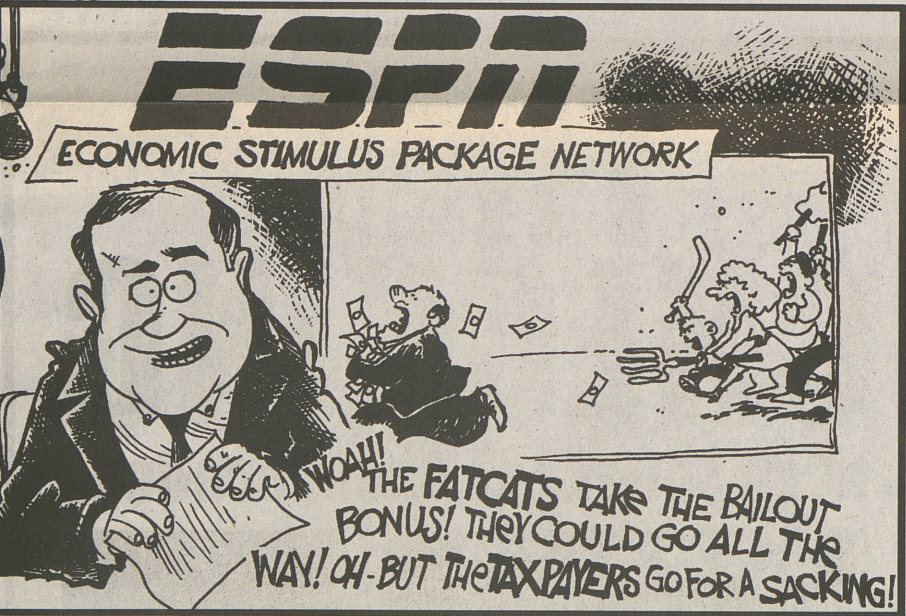
Solutions



52 Catches
53 German articles
54 Traditional religious meal
55 Ruler of old
56 Word with jack or doodle
57 Floor covering: Brit.
59 Ms. Falco
60 Anger
62 "...had a farm, ..."

MoreOnTV

SCHILLER • CRAVENS



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[calendar]

Mar. 27- April 17

March 27
Student Recital
Jean Browne Theater – 1 p.m.

28
Apache Belle Show
Wise – 7:00 p.m.

Wesley Foundation Jam Fest 2009
8 P.M. - 11 P.M.

30
FINANCIAL AID CHECK RELEASE

31
4 PM - 5:15 PM Student Senate Meeting

April 1
LAST DAY TO APPLY FOR SPRING DEGREE.

Hip Hop/Rap Concert
7 P.M. - 10:30 P.M.

2
Apache Belle Show
Wise 7:30 P.M. - 9:30 P.M.

3
Student Recital
Jean Browne theater – 1:00 p.m.

Apache Belle Show
7:30 P.M.- 9:30 P.M.

4
Apache Belle Show
7:30 P.M. - 9:30 P.M.

6
BRIDGE LOAN DUE

FINANCIAL AID CHECK RELEASE

Student Senate Elections
8:30 A.M. - 4 P.M.

10
EASTER HOLIDAY (OFFICES CLOSED)

Student/Faculty Dance Recital
Wise – 7:30 p.m.

FINANCIAL AID CHECK RELEASE

HAVE AN EVENT?

E-MAIL YOUR CALENDAR ITEMS
TO TJCNEWS@TJC.EDU

TJC Student Recital
1 P.M. - 2 P.M.

11
EASTER HOLIDAY (OFFICES CLOSED)

12
EASTER HOLIDAY

13
FINANCIAL AID CHECK RELEASE

14
Student Senate Meeting
4 P.M. - 5:15 P.M.

17
TJC STUDENT RECITAL
1 P.M. - 2 P.M.

STUDENT SENATE BANQUET
7:00 PM - 9:00 PM

Ghost Tracker

JACKSONVILLE, TEXAS

By Dennis Gonsoulin
Multimedia Editor

A bustling town with a population of about 16,000, Jacksonville is not so different from many other East Texas towns, and like most other small cities in Texas, Jacksonville has its share of ghost stories.

The city's first stop and probably its most infamous when it comes to the paranormal is the Jacksonville City Cemetery on Kickapoo Street. With graves dating back to the 1880's, the cemetery is almost as old as the town itself, which was founded in 1847. The cemetery is haunted according to local legend.

Reports of mysterious lights and the sounds of ghostly footsteps are common. Perhaps the most widely told story is that "Mother Templeton," a statue of a woman in the cemetery that is said to change positions. She is reported to have been seen holding a Bible, praying, holding flowers or holding one hand over her heart and one hand at her side.

The site is listed on TexasGhostHunters.com, a website which chronicles haunted places in Texas. As stated on the website, some locals claim that if you go to the cemetery during a full moon you will see the statue in one position, only to see her in a different pose after looking away.

Another paranormal hot spot in Jacksonville is the Craven Wilson Dorm building at Lon Morris College. Several reports have been made citing strange activity in the dorm including things being moved from

shelves, drawers being opened, electronics turning on and off, radio stations changing on their own, noise being heard from rooms while the occupants were away for the weekend, clothes moving in closets, unexplained steaming water from cold water pipes and the shower curtain being pushed in with great force toward the occupant while showering.

Another site in Jacksonville that has been the subject of claims of strange or paranormal activity is the vacant Travis Clinic. According to Cherokee Real Estate Company, the medical facility was built in the late 1970s, and operated until the mid 80s when it was shut down. In 1990 the building was acquired by the Texas State Missionary Association, a Baptist Church Group. The group intended to renovate the building, but reportedly did not realize the extensive repair required and were essentially in over their heads. The building was abandoned once more and fell even further into disrepair.

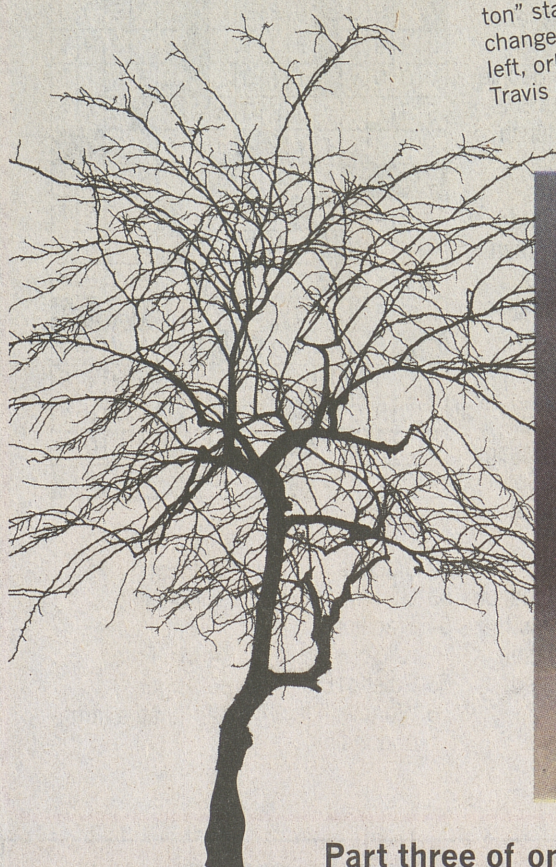
Some locals have claimed that strange lights and sounds come from the building at night and pictures taken at the sight have showed bright orbs, often associated with paranormal energy. One picture taken at the site included hundreds of orbs, and an opaque image that some believe to resemble the face of a female spirit.

The property has been listed for sale by the Cherokee Real Estate Company and is visible from East Loop 456.

During the day, Jacksonville may be just another East Texas town, but at night, evidence of the paranormal presents itself to those brave enough to search for it.



PARANORMAL HOTPOTS Top right, "Mother Templeton" statue in the Jacksonville City Cemetery is said to change positions during a full moon. Bottom right and left, orbs of light caught in pictures of the abandoned Travis Clinic.



Photos by Dennis Gonsoulin

Part three of ongoing Ghost Tracker series

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